

*In Memoriam*



*DENNIS A. GIBSON*  
*1938 - 1981*

Dennis A. Gibson  
Memorial Scholarship Fund

At the fall conference of Attakapas Historical Association, Nov. 21, 1981, members unanimously approved a resolution to the effect that henceforth the Attakapas Historical Association Scholarship Fund shall be designated the Dennis A. Gibson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Contributions to that fund will be accepted as memorials to Dennis A. Gibson, late secretary-treasurer of Attakapas Historical Association.



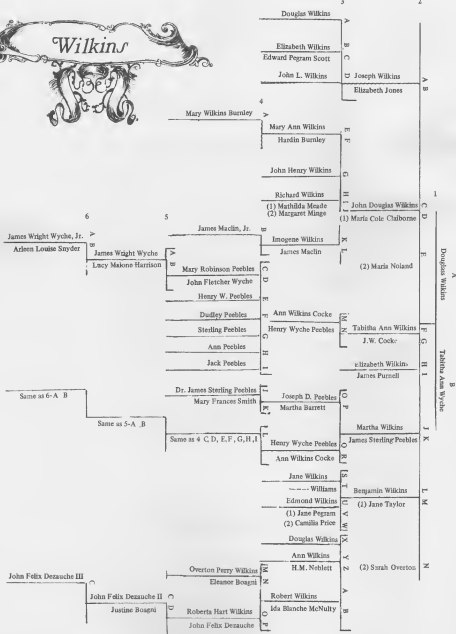
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## A decorative initial 'S' in a black and white woodcut style. The 'S' is formed by two large, symmetrical, swirling loops. In the center of the 'S', there is a small, stylized face with large, round eyes and a small mouth. The entire initial is framed by ornate, leaf-like flourishes.





# Virginians In The Teche Country



by

Glenn R. Conrad and Gertrude C. Taylor

## INTRODUCTION

It would be difficult to examine the saga of emigration of Virginians to Louisiana without investigating, however briefly, the economic-social circumstances which surrounded these people at a particular time and caused them to leave their native soil. Understanding these circumstances will explain how a group of people, possessing deep roots in the Tidewater and Piedmont districts of Virginia, could suddenly decide to go in search of a better life elsewhere, even if their odyssey meant facing an uncertain future, unknown diseases, and untimely death.

The economic backbone of Virginia in the eighteenth century was agriculture, particularly the tobacco culture. During the first century and a half of the colonial era, tobacco had allowed Virginia planters to develop a style of living much akin to that of the English gentry. But this type of agriculture, "based upon a single crop produced by exploitive methods . . . caused yields to decline and lands to reach a condition in which the planters declared them 'exhausted.'"<sup>1</sup> Whenever this condition had occurred in the years before 1750, profits, and therefore the standard of living, had been maintained by moving to new ground, exploiting the fertility of this soil for a few years, and then passing on to new lands cleared from the forest.<sup>2</sup> Expansion thereby became a normal condition of the agricultural unit. But as farms developed into plantations, exploitive practices caused the earth to yield decreasing profits from increasing capital investment, particularly in the form of slave labor.

It had therefore become obvious to many Virginia planters in the years between the French and Indian War and the American Revolution that the old life could not be sustained without serious social friction and that a new order had to begin.<sup>3</sup> A solution to their economic problem seemed to be found in the post-Revolutionary decades when Virginia agriculturists turned from tobacco with its rapid depletion of soil vitality to wheat cultivation. There is no doubt that it was the large demand for flour spawned by shortages arising from the Napoleonic wars which prevented ruined tobacco farmers from quitting their native soil in search of new opportunities in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and the Old Southwest.

Virginia's prosperity, brought on by this extraordinary demand for grain, was precarious at best, for it was a trade based upon the short-range exigencies of wartime. When peace came to Europe and America in 1815, European and Caribbean markets were suddenly closed to Virginia wheat. The economic impact which followed was so profound that "by 1821 Norfolk, the great port for tobacco and wheat was described as a place of 'grass grown streets and deserted wharfs.'"<sup>4</sup>

1. Avery O. Craven, *Soil Exhaustion as a Factor in the Agricultural History of Virginia and Maryland, 1606-1860* (1926; reprint ed.: Gloucester, Mass., Peter Smith, 1965), p. 162.

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*, p. 62.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 81.

Thus burdened with large, unprofitable estates, increasingly idle slave laborers whose numbers were constantly multiplying, and a non-existent market for produce, land, or slaves, the impoverished masters of many Virginia plantations began eyeing the virgin lands of trans-Appalachia. Those who led the way westward, the pathfinders, were usually young people imbued not only with a spirit of adventure but compelled forward by an urge to embrace a standard of living they knew could no longer be supported at home.

By 1820, thousands of Virginians were annually crossing the Alleghenys with their slaves and their herds to seek not only new lands but also to experiment with new types of agriculture—wheat, corn, and tobacco in the Ohio, Cumberland, and Tennessee valleys, cotton in much of the lower South, and sugarcane in Louisiana. By 1850, nearly 400,000 Virginians were living in other states.<sup>5</sup> Everywhere they carried with them their Virginia heritage and thereby stamped an indelible mark upon the cultures of their adopted states.

Typical of these emigrants were several closely related families from Brunswick and Greensville counties in the southeastern region of Virginia. In an earlier time their forebears had quit their native Scotland for the rich promise or the safe haven of the New World. They and their descendants had worked hard for over a century to carve their plantations from the wilderness. When, in 1776 and again in 1812, the time came to do so, they had committed their lives and their fortunes to the cause of American freedom.

But now, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, they, like so many other Virginians, found their destiny clouded by economic factors which were confusing and seemingly overwhelming. For these reasons, younger members of the family became pathfinders, moving westward in search of the good life. In their train came older family members also in search of the promised land.

This series of articles will focus on those men of Brunswick who settled in the midst of an earlier band of exiles, the Acadians, along the banks of Bayou Teche in southern Louisiana. Like the Acadians, the Virginians would make an enduring contribution to the heritage of their adopted state.

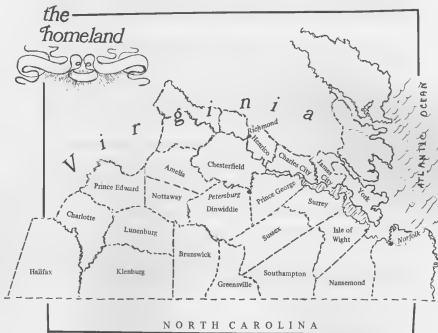
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The authors became interested in these Virginians along the Teche through a newspaper article written by Dr. Alfred Duperier which appeared in the *New Iberia Enterprise* between March 18 and April 1, 1899. Of the several Anglo-Americans who settled in the New Iberia area, Dr. Duperier made special reference to John D. Wilkins.

John D. Wilkins . . . came from Virginia possessed of considerable means and a liberal education received at the University of Virginia. . . . He purchased for himself and for [Henry Wyche] Peebles a large domain which was utilized as a sugar plantation and stock farm. His intelligence and education made him a favorite among the elite of the French population. He soon became the controlling spirit of the banks of St. Martinville. . . . He was liberal in his contributions to all undertakings. He was a man of deep thought and a natural philosopher. . . . The boat that brought him had also landed a cargo of fine stock of all descriptions that were at once driven to Mr. Wilkins' newly acquired possessions, three miles in the rear of the Olivier place. Mr. Wilkins died at his Louisiana home, regretted by all classes of people. . . . He left considerable means to his two sons and a son-in-law who have long since followed him to his last resting place.

A biographical sketch such as the foregoing served only to whet the curiosity of the authors who were thereby prompted to seek out more information relating to this pioneer and his relatives. Research into Wilkins' career began in May, 1981. Within a short time the authors discovered that they were not dealing with the single thread of one man's exploits but that they had stumbled upon a complex fabric of family relationships and business associations. The result, therefore, is not the story of an individual nor even of a family, but of many individuals and many families as they pursued the American dream of the better life. Research into this story led the authors to depositories in Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, California, and, of course, Louisiana. Nevertheless, the authors are certain that there remains to be discovered significant information relating to this story.

Based upon Dr. Duperier's account, one might reasonably conclude that the account of the Virginia families along the Teche is typical of the Hollywood-created myth of glory and grandeur that accompanied the life of antebellum Louisiana sugar planters. This is not what research reveals. The purpose of the articles that begin with this issue of the *Gazette* and will continue in several issues to come is to present as realistically as possible, based upon presently available information, the story of several Virginia families who made their home in antebellum Louisiana. It is not the object of the authors to criticize the activities or omissions of these men of Brunswick.





# VIRGINIANS IN THE TECHE COUNTRY

## PART I

### John D. Wilkins and the Louisiana Beginnings

By Glenn R. Conrad

John Douglass Wilkins was born in Brunswick County or Greenville County, Virginia, in 1780.<sup>1</sup> He was the son of Douglass Wilkins and Tabitha Ann Wyche.<sup>2</sup> The elder Wilkins was a Revolutionary War veteran, militia officer, local politician,<sup>3</sup> and planter. His wife was descended from the prominent Wyche family, South Virginia Tidewater planters.<sup>4</sup> In addition to John, Douglass Wilkins' other children were Joseph, who married Elizabeth (Betsy) Jones, the daughter of John Jones and Elizabeth Binns;<sup>5</sup> Patsy, who married Sterling Peebles of Greenville County, April 20, 1788; Elizabeth, who married Dr. William Purnell of Greenville County, November 1, 1799; Tabitha Ann, who married John W. Cocke of Greenville County, August 28, 1807; and Benjamin, who married first Jane Taylor of Tennessee and secondly Sarah Overton, also of Tennessee.<sup>6</sup>

Very little is known about the Douglass Wilkins family before 1801. In August of that year Wilkins executed his last will and testament, a document which affords limited insight into the family's activities. From the terms of Wilkins' will, one can deduce that Tabitha Ann Wyche had brought a large dowry to her marriage. To his wife, Wilkins bequeathed "in lieu of her dower of land, all the land the east side of the Rocky Run and all the cleared land above the run." In lieu of her dower of Negroes, Wilkins bequeathed his wife twenty-eight slaves. Finally, in lieu of her dower of the personal estate, he willed her

1. The uncertainty surrounding John D. Wilkins' place of birth stems from the fact that Brunswick County was divided by an act of October 1780 which took effect on February 1, 1781. *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st ser., "XII, 31.

The 1850 federal census of St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, records John Wilkins' age as 70.

2. John Wilkins' mother's name is given in the record of his second marriage, St. Peter's Parish, New Iberia, La., Marriage Book 1; however, a published place on Brunswick County, Va., marriages indicates that Douglass Wilkins married Tabitha Sims, the daughter of Adam Sims, on December 23, 1771. See Augusta B. Fothergill, *Marriage Records of Brunswick County, Virginia, 1730-1852* (privately printed, 1953), p. 128.

It may be that Douglass Wilkins was married twice, first to Tabitha Sims, and second to Tabitha Wyche.

3. Wilkins was sheriff of Brunswick County in 1778-79. Janet Gay Neale et al., *Brunswick County, Virginia, 1720-1975* (Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1975), p. 394.

Douglass Wilkins was among those who took an active role in the creation of Greenville County in 1781. Two years later he was recorded as having forty-six slaves, the fourth largest slaveowner in the county. His plantation in Greenville County was known as "Oakland." He had another plantation in Brunswick County known as "Dry Bread Plantation." For this and additional information on Douglass Wilkins, see Douglas Summers Brown, et al., *Historical and Biographical Sketches of Greenville County, Virginia, 1650-1967* (Richmond, 1966), pp. 49, 83, 105.

4. For additional information on the Wyche family, see the forthcoming article on that family.

5. For additional information on the Jones family, see "Jones of Petersburg," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st ser., XIX, 290.

6. The name of Douglas' children are set out in his testament, dated August 10, 1801, and recorded in Greenville County, Va., Will Book 1, p. 455. The marriages of Patsy, Elizabeth, and Tabitha Wilkins are recorded in Greenville County Register of Marriages, 1781-1853. Concerning Joseph's marriage and family, see footnote 22 below. Benjamin Wilkins' marriages and family will be discussed in a future segment of "Virginians in the Teche Country."



as many animals "and household furniture as will serve her to keep House."<sup>7</sup>

To his son John Douglass, the elder Wilkins bequeathed his plantation in Brunswick County.<sup>8</sup> The will notes that Wilkins and his son had already concluded an arrangement whereby John had occupied the plantation and had acquired some of his father's slaves to operate the place. An addendum to the will states: "I desire John D. Wilkins' house to be finished by the Negroes. . . ." Douglass Wilkins was therefore providing for his second son (as he had for the elder Joseph<sup>9</sup> and as he would provide for the younger Benjamin<sup>10</sup>) as he entered adulthood.

Because his youngest son was then but a child,<sup>11</sup> the senior Wilkins provided that his wife was "to have the use of Benjamin Wilkins' Negroes upon her schooling him and maintaining him till he comes of age." Following that, the administration of Benjamin's estate would pass into the hands of his elder brother, John, who would be obligated to complete Benjamin's education and provide him with animals for his plantation. That plantation was the 1,600-acre "home place" in Greenville County.

To each of his children Douglass Wilkins bequeathed movable and/or immovable property according to whether or not he had entered into a previous arrangement for entitling them to a portion of his possessions. He named his wife, William Maclin,<sup>12</sup> Joseph Wilkins, and John D. Wilkins to be executors of his will. Douglass Wilkins died in early 1802, for his will was probated at the May (1802) session of county court.

Little data has been uncovered concerning John D. Wilkins in the years before his marriage. Dr. Duperier noted that he was a well-educated individual, having been schooled at the University of Virginia. That, however, is unlikely because the University of Virginia was not founded until 1819, the year that Wilkins was thirty-nine years old.<sup>13</sup>

7. Greenville County Will Book 1, p. 455.

8. Douglass Wilkins purchased this 1,212-acre plantation from Robert Turnbull on April 15, 1795, as recorded in Brunswick County Deed Book 16, p. 357. The property is described as being on "Shining" Creek in west-central Brunswick County. Today the stream is known as "Shiny" Creek. Interview with Mrs. J. W. Kidd, deputy clerk of Brunswick County, Lawrenceville, Va., August 28, 1981.

9. On January 27, 1791, Douglass Wilkins sold to his son Joseph a tract of land comprising 1,100 acres in Greenville County. According to Brown, *Historical and Biographical Sketches*, p. 105, this was Oakland Plantation. Sale price was 5 pounds sterling, a token payment. For a record of the transaction, see Greenville County Deed Book 1, p. 348.

Judging from the date of this sale, one can speculate that Joseph was about ten years older than John. No birth data for Joseph or John was located in Virginia.

10. See a later segment of this article dealing with the career of Benjamin Wilkins.

11. According to his tombstone inscription, Benjamin Wilkins was born December 10, 1796. The tomb of Dr. Wilkins is located on his former plantation, now the property of Mr. James D. Singleton of Arnaudville, La.

12. William Maclin, Jr., was the son of William Maclin, Sr., who emigrated from Scotland to Brunswick County in the early eighteenth century. Julia McKinley, "Maclin Family," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st ser., VII, 108-109.

William Maclin, Jr., married Winnie Wyche on September 20, 1781. Mrs. J. O. James "Greenville Co. Marriage Bonds [sic], *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, XXIV (1916), 307. It is quite possible that William Maclin's wife was the sister-in-law of Douglass Wilkins.

13. No one named John D. Wilkins matriculated at the University of Virginia in the nineteenth century. Helen H. Shelton, Recorder, Registrar's Office, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., to the author, August 5, 1981.

Wilkins might have attended Washington College, the predecessor or present-day Washington and Lee University. That institution, however, has no record of Wilkins' attendance. Harold S. Head, University Registrar, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va., to the author, August 21, 1981.

It was also possible for Wilkins to have attended The College of William and Mary, but a search of College's records failed to produce any evidence in this regard. James W. Oberly, Assistant Archivist, College of William and Mary, W6-

Research has so far failed to reveal when and where John Wilkins married. It is known, however, that he married Maria Cole Claiborne, also a Virginian. The Wilkinses had four children who survived to adulthood: John Henry, born in 1810; Imogene; Mary Ann; and Richard, born May 14, 1815.<sup>14</sup>

As his family expanded in number, Wilkins must have prospered, for from 1811 to 1821, in a series of purchases, he added 727 acres to his plantation on Shiny Creek and purchased the "home place" in Greensville County from Benjamin.<sup>15</sup> Interestingly enough, John purchased only two slaves during this decade.<sup>16</sup>

The era of building suddenly ended, however, in the late summer of 1825. At that time John Wilkins began to close out his extensive Virginia agricultural operations. Slightly more than four years later, he had liquidated most of his immovable property and, at age fifty, had sought a new life for himself, his family, and his slaves in a rather remote region of South Louisiana.

The motivation necessary to cause a nearly fifty-year-old man to quit his native land and the acquisitions of generations must have been great indeed. Many of the factors behind such a decision have already been investigated in the introduction to this article. All that remains is to investigate those factors which could have attracted John Wilkins to Louisiana.

First, there was the lure of the Old Southwest, a new frontier that had been opened with the Louisiana Purchase. For many Easterners the "grass looked greener" across the Mississippi River.

Second, by the 1820s sugar culture in Louisiana was well established. Tales of fortunes to be made in sugar were beginning to circulate in the older states of the Union. Many Easterners listened with rapt attention. As Sam R. Hilliard notes, "Despite obstacles [to growing sugarcane in Louisiana], profits were high, and the incentive to become a sugar planter lured thousands of settlers into . . . [Louisiana] during the early nineteenth century."<sup>17</sup>

Hamburg, Va., to the author, September 8, 1981.

A final possibility was Hampden-Sydney College. The author's inquiry about Wilkins' possible matriculation at that institution went unanswered.

14. John Wilkins' children who survived to adulthood are identified in St. Mary Parish Estates 331 and 361.

The 1810 federal census of Brunswick County, Va., indicates that John Henry was born that year; however, his tombstone inscription gives the natal year as 1811. John Henry's tombstone is located on the James Singleton property. He is buried next to his Uncle Benjamin.

Richard Augustin Wilkins' birth date is derived from his tombstone in Live Oak Cemetery, Selma, Alabama.

The author was unable to determine the parents or relatives of Maria Cole Claiborne.

15. The largest of the purchases on Shiny Creek was for 465 acres bought from William Rivers Estate on August 23, 1813. For this conveyance, see Brunswick County Deed Book 22, p. 160. Wilkins' other additions to this plantation are recorded in Brunswick County Deed Book 21, p. 174 (Mar. 26, 1811); Book 21, p. 274 (Sept. 23, 1811); Book 23, p. 50 (Nov. 28, 1815); Book 23, p. 306 (Jan. 1, 1817); Book 25, p. 150 (June 2, 1821).

Wilkins' numerous purchases between 1811 and 1815 may have been for wheat production during the years of the Napoleonic wars, as is discussed in the introduction. The 1817 and 1821 purchases may have been in response to "the burgeoning demand for cotton" in the years immediately following the War of 1812. For the effect this demand had on opening up public lands in the Old Southwest, see Paul W. Gates, "Federal Land Policies in the Southern Public Land States," *Agricultural History*, 53 (1979), 206-227.

16. A more detailed discussion of slave sales is found in the introduction and in fn. 18.

According to the 1810 federal census of Brunswick County, Va., Wilkins then owned thirty-one slaves.

17. Sam B. Hilliard, "Slee Characteristics and Spatial Stability of the Louisiana Sugarcane Industry, *Agricultural History*, 53 (1979), 256.

But there were more than just profits in sugar cultivation. The culture required large amounts of human labor. An increasingly irksome problem for Wilkins was the ever-growing number of slaves he owned. A sugar plantation in subtropical Louisiana would certainly be able to give work to his slaves on a year-round basis. The milder climate, moreover, would allow for nearly year-round food production for the slaves.<sup>18</sup>

Finally, in 1826, the federal government offered for sale large tracts of public land in Louisiana at a price of \$1.25 per acre.<sup>19</sup>

Between 1825 and 1829, therefore, Wilkins sold most of his Virginia lands and began to buy, in partnership with his nephew, Henry Wyche Peebles, large tracts of public and private lands in St. Mary (later Iberia) Parish, Louisiana.<sup>20</sup>

The sales began when, on November 4, 1825, Wilkins and his wife sold 814 acres of the "home place" to Samuel Avent.<sup>21</sup> An interesting aside to emerge from this sale is mention of the fact that the sale property was bounded on one side by that belonging to Joseph Wilkins, "now deceased."<sup>22</sup> This sale netted \$3,663.

The same day the Wilkinses sold another fifty acres of the "home place" to John Ferguson for \$300.<sup>23</sup> The remnant of the "home place" was sold after John Wilkins moved to Louisiana. That transaction was handled by John G. Claiborne of Brunswick County. Claiborne held Wilkins' power of attorney.<sup>24</sup> On December 24, 1833, Claiborne sold the re-

18. Although he nearly tripled his land holdings between 1801 and 1821, John D. Wilkins is recorded as having bought only two slaves. His slave holdings came to him in several ways: 1) by arrangement with his father; 2) by inheritance from his father; 3) by purchase; 4) by natural increase. As noted below, John Wilkins probably brought all of his slaves to Louisiana. His reason for doing so, undoubtedly, was that he could not sell them in Virginia at a profit or even a break-even price.

It should be noted here that in late August, 1981, the author visited the approximate areas of the Wilkins plantations in Brunswick and Greenville counties. These lands are today rolling, forested hills with an occasional clearing for small patches of corn or soybeans or for cattle grazing. In a conversation with Mrs. J. G. Neale, a local historian, she confirmed that by the 1820s many of the counties' plantations were "burnt out," and that the slave population had become a pressing problem for many local planters. Interview with Mrs. J. G. Neale, Lawrenceville, Va., Aug. 28, 1981.

The *Richmond Enquirer*, a leading Virginia newspaper of the day, for example ran advertisement after advertisement offering plantations for sale in 1828 and 1829. One advertiser announced, "Pleasant Hill Plantation for sale in Mecklenburg County, owner moving west." Another advertisement advised Virginians to move to Alabama where "in many instances [slaveowners would] more than double the value of their property by purchasing good farms at low price." *Richmond Enquirer*, October 14, 21, 1828.

19. For public land sales in Louisiana, see the U. S. Tract Books for the four districts of the state.

20. Henry Wyche Peebles was the son of Sterling Peebles and Patsy Wilkins, the sister of John Douglass Wilkins. According to his gravestone inscription (Rose Hill Cemetery, New Iberia, La.), Henry Peebles was born on January 1, 1795. He was therefore fifteen years the junior of his uncle John. For additional information on Henry Wyche and the Wyche family, see the forthcoming article on them by Gertrude C. Taylor.

21. Sale recorded in Greenville County Deed Book 6, p. 69.

22. Joseph Wilkins died in August or September 1816. It is his will, given on August 1, 1816, that provides information concerning his family. Joseph and his wife, Elizabeth (Betsy), the daughter of Capt. John Jones and Lucy Binns Cagill, had four children: Tabitha, Martha Ann Jones, Elizabeth, Douglass, and John L. Additional information on Douglass and John L. will be provided in a forthcoming segment of "Virginians in the Teche Country."

At the time of his death, Joseph had two plantations, one in Brunswick County and one in Greenville County. He owned 40 slaves. He was growing corn, wheat, and cotton on the Greenville plantation and tobacco on the Brunswick plantation.

John Douglass Wilkins was administrator of his brother's estate until December 1824. This apparently forged a close bond between him and his nephew Douglass, as future events would indicate. Joseph Wilkins' will is found in Greenville County Will Book 3, p. 7.

23. Greenville County Deed Book 6, p. 104.

24. On September 12, 1829, John Wilkins "desiring to remove from the state of Virginia," constituted John G. Claiborne his attorney to act in his name. Brunswick County Deed Book 28, p. 332.

maining 688 acres of the "home place" to Ruffin E. Walton for \$667.50. In view of the price, less than one dollar per acre, one can conclude that the land sold was either wooded or exhausted.<sup>25</sup>

25. Greenville County Deed Book 7, p. 152. Judging from the purchase price paid Benjamin Wilkins in 1819 and the aggregate price received from the sale of the "home place" in 1825 and 1833, John Wilkins lost over \$4,600 in the sale of the place. This would clearly indicate deteriorating land values in Virginia in the 1820s, a factor that probably contributed greatly to Wilkins' emigration.



Fig. 1. The Isle aux Canes area of St. Mary (now Iberia) Parish.

Some time between 1825 and 1828 John Wilkins and Henry W. Peebles formed a partnership, eventually known as John D. Wilkins & Co.,<sup>26</sup> and, in the fall of 1828, they arrived in Louisiana to purchase public lands.<sup>27</sup> Proceeding to the federal land office in Opelousas, they selected land in the Isle aux Cannes area of St. Mary Parish (fig. 1). Their purchases began on January 5, 1829, and continued until March 1. By that date they had acquired 1,388 acres of undeveloped land \$1.25 per acre (fig. 2).<sup>28</sup>

26. The company's name is found in St. Martin Original Suit 2571, dated July 18, 1840.

27. This information is provided in a deposition later given by John D. Wilkins. The deposition is found in St. Mary Parish Original Suit 4098.

The *Richmond Enquirer* advertised in the late summer and early fall of 1828 that the *Jefferson* would sail from Norfolk for New Orleans sometime between October 1 and 15. It is possible that this was the ship that first brought Wilkins to Louisiana. *Richmond Enquirer*, September-October, 1828.

28. The lands are located in Township 13 South, Ranges 6 and 7 East. They were first offered for sale on the first Monday of November, 1826. For a record of these purchases, see U. S. Tract Book 10, pp. 144-146, and Book 11, pp. 39-42.

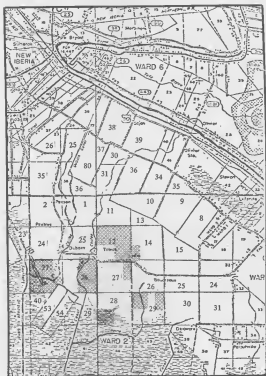


Fig. 2. Public lands at Isle aux Cannes purchased by Henry W. Peebles and John D. Wilkins in 1829.

Wilkins apparently made certain arrangements for the occupation and improvement of the land, which must have also included the building of a home.<sup>29</sup> With that done, he returned to Virginia to sell his remaining property and conclude his business affairs before beginning the Louisiana adventure. Early in the fall of 1829, John and Maria Wilkins, their children, slaves, and much of their animal stock left Virginia. They arrived in Louisiana on November 23.<sup>30</sup>

At present there is only Dr. Duperier's account of the Wilkinses' arrival in Louisiana. From that account it is known that they came up the Teche by boat and landed at the Olivier plantation about three miles distant from the lands Wilkins and Peebles had purchased. This information, however, raises more questions—questions for which answers are not forthcoming in the present research. What type of boat did the Wilkinses arrive on? Was it a Teche steamer that the family took from New Orleans or was it a coastal schooner that perhaps Wilkins hired in Norfolk to bring his family and belongings to Louisiana?<sup>31</sup> Dr. Duperier tells us that the stock arrived on the same boat with the Wilkinses.

Dr. Duperier also records that Wilkins brought with him a letter of introduction to Col. Olivier from Henry Clay. Did Wilkins or Peebles know the great Kentuckian, or was it Benjamin, then living in Kentucky, who asked for letters of introduction for his brother and nephew? Unfortunately, we are now too far removed from the event for our meager documentation to provide an answer to this question.

During 1830 the family must have settled into their new home and began the work of clearing and draining the land. The 1830 federal census indicates that there were 135 slaves on the Wilkins-Peebles lands. Since this figure is greater than the 80 slaves thought to have been brought by Wilkins, the additional slaves must have been provided by Henry Peebles.<sup>32</sup>

The public lands which Wilkins and Peebles acquired in 1829 were but the beginnings of a huge estate which they would come to own collectively and individually. The purchase of public lands in the Isle aux Cannes occurred in three stages after the initial acquisitions. The second round of purchase occurred in February, 1831, and February, 1832, and added 619 acres to the company's holdings.<sup>33</sup>

29. In the deposition found in St. Mary Parish Original Suit 4098, Wilkins notes that he "placed there [the newly acquired lands] some of his slaves to improve the land and make it habitable."

30. The arrival date is found in *ibid.*

31. It is interesting to note, but perhaps only coincidental, that the brig *Ajax* sailed from Norfolk in October, 1829, and arrived in New Orleans "with some slaves" on November 19, four days before the recorded arrival of the Wilkinses. For the proposed sailing of the *Ajax* from Norfolk, see the *Richmond Enquirer* for late August and September, 1829. For the arrival of the *Ajax* in New Orleans, see *L'Abeille*, November 19, 1829.

32. St. Martin and St. Mary parish records indicate that Wilkins rarely bought or sold slaves. When he did so, it was only an individual slave; therefore the 55 additional slaves were not bought after his arrival in Louisiana.

The land purchased by Wilkins and Peebles was only a few feet (five to ten) above sea level and poorly drained; thus, unsuitable for sugarcane cultivation. One of the first tasks undertaken by the slaves therefore had to be the construction of a major drainage system. Key to that drainage system was a large canal conveying water into the coastal marsh. The canal became known as the Wilkins Canal and can still be found on official maps of Iberia Parish. In recent times, however, the stream has been labeled Bayou Jack (or Jack's Coulee). Originally, however, Jack's (John Wilkins' nickname) Coulee was a stream that flowed into the Wilkins Canal.

A portion of this drainage system was based on some natural water courses which were cleared and deepened. One such watercourse still bears the name of the first landowner of the area: Peebles Coulee.

33. For a record of these purchases, see U. S. Tract Book 10, pp. 144, and Book 11, pp. 40, 42. These lands adjoined those bought in 1829.

The third stage of public-land acquisition occurred in 1834-35. In February, 1834, the partnership bought 81 acres; on December 10 and 11, 1835, Wilkins and Peebles purchased 1,025 acres of unimproved land at Isle aux Cannes.<sup>34</sup> The company's final purchase of public lands took place in 1836 when the partners purchased twenty parcels of land at Isle aux Cannes, totalling over 4,150 acres.<sup>35</sup> Thus, between January 1829 and June, 1836, the partnership had acquired over 7,000 acres of public land.<sup>36</sup>

Public lands, however, did not constitute the only land acquisitions by Wilkins and Peebles. Between 1831 and 1845 they purchased several parcels of privately owned land, totalling 862 acres, including the residence of Nicolas Broussard.<sup>37</sup> Thus, the partners had acquired nearly 8,000 acres of public and private lands. (fig. 3) Although this amount of

34. These purchases are recorded in *ibid.*

35. *Ibid.*

36. It is unknown why the company ceased purchasing public lands in 1836; however, the financial panic of the next year may have been largely responsible. Henry Peebles and John Wilkins did buy additional public lands in Louisiana later on, but this they did individually.

37. These conveyances were as follows: from Eloy J. H. Landry, April 12, 1831, St. Mary Conveyance Book C, p. 276 (200 acres); from John M. Singleton, October 26, 1834, Book D, pp. 211-12 (20 acres); from Nicolas Broussard, Nov. 25, 1835, Book 8, p. 76 (480 acres and residence); from Simonet Broussard, Aug. 20, 1841, Book F, p. 83 (40 acres); from Raphael Broussard, Mar. 17, 1843, Book F, pp. 143-44 (81 acres); from Jean-Pierre Landry, Aug. 2, 1843, Book H, p. 309 (40 acres); from Granville Laughlin, Mar. 27, 1844, Book J, p. 319 (100 acres); from Catherine Dorsey, Feb. 14, 1845, Book J, p. 322 (40 acres).

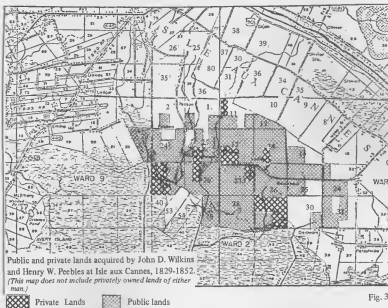


Fig. 3.

acreage indicates a large landholding, probably one of the largest in Louisiana, it must be recalled that most of this land was wooded and/or marshy; therefore, unfit for agricultural production without extensive improvement. Indeed, the total amount of acreage which John Wilkins had under cultivation shortly before his death (500 acres) was but a small portion of the 3,300 acres he personally owned.<sup>38</sup>

On April 20, 1843, Wilkins and Peebles divided some of the lands they owned at Isle aux Cannes. An amicable dividing line was established along the course of Jack's Coulee. Peebles took sole possession of some of the lands west of the coulee; Wilkins did the same with regard to some lands east of the coulee. This act of partition was recorded in New Iberia by Simon Walsh and was witnessed by John Devalcourt and John Mitcheltree.<sup>39</sup>

The second partition of the partnership's lands occurred immediately after the death of John Wilkins.<sup>40</sup> Before this division, however, the partners had sold 420 acres at Isle aux Cannes to Benjamin Wilkins.<sup>41</sup> Interestingly enough, this was the only sale of the company's lands before Wilkins' death in 1852.

In addition to jointly purchased lands, Wilkins and Peebles individually acquired real estate. On April 19, 1844, for example, Wilkins bought from Simon White of St. Martin Parish a parcel of land one league square near Lebanon, Texas. This tract adjoined the town about three or four miles from the San Antonio River, on both sides of Manarroy Creek in Goliad County.<sup>42</sup> This property and more in Victoria County was still owned by Wilkins at the time of his death.<sup>43</sup>

John Wilkins had come to Louisiana to engage in sugar production. Before that was possible, however, the land had to be cleared and drained. Whether he was aware of the investment necessary, in labor and capital, to accomplish this before he left Virginia is impossible to know. What is known is that the first stalk of cane was not planted for at least six years while the slaves labored to clear and drain the land. At the same time he settled his first wife's estate, in 1836, Wilkins stated that he had spent \$14,000 on improving the land. When this proved to be insufficient, he sold some of his slaves to David Hayes for \$5,500 plowed this money into developing the plantation. Finally, in order to buy seed cane to plant his lands, in early 1836 Wilkins mortgaged one thousand acres to the Citizens Bank of

38. Agricultural Census, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, 1850. At the same time Peebles owned 8,310 acres but had only 810 under cultivation. *Ibid.*

39. The division of the partnership's lands is recorded in St. Mary Conveyance Book F, p. 149. No reason has been determined for the partition of some of the company's lands at this time.

40. See St. Mary Parish Original Estate 761.

41. The sale to Benjamin Wilkins is recorded in St. Mary Conveyance Book I, p. 271. Benjamin was then a resident of Hinds County, Miss. This purchase, however, does appear to be the first step taken by him in his move to the Teche Country, where he would spend the remaining twenty years of his life.

42. This sale is recorded in St. Mary Conveyance Book 14, p. 388.

In 1850 Wilkins bought seven certificates of title to one league of land square each. The certificates were issued to various individuals but all of the land was located in Jasper County in southeastern Texas. For the details of this acquisition, see St. Mary Parish Conveyance Book H, p. 98.

43. See St. Mary Parish Original Estate 761.



New Orleans. Thus, Wilkins' first cane crop could only have been harvested in the fall of 1836, fully seven years after he had come to Louisiana.<sup>44</sup>

Whether the Wilkins and Peebles partnership grew cane in the late 1830s is unknown. From the Franklin newspaper, the *Planters' Banner*, and from Champomier's *Statement of the Sugar Crop*, . . . it is possible to gather production figures for the company and for Wilkins individually, but only beginning in the 1840s.<sup>45</sup>

The *Banner's* compilation does not indicate production for Peebles and Wilkins individually or collectively, for the crop year 1843. For the three crop years of 1844, 1845, and 1846 Peebles and Wilkins produced 380 hogsheads (1100 lbs. per hogshead) of sugar for 1844 and 1845 and 250 hogsheads for 1846. Wilkins and son (Richard or John Henry) are listed as producing 320 hogsheads in 1844.<sup>46</sup> At approximately five cents per pound for sugar at the time, the partnership would have grossed nearly \$21,000 for each of the 1844 and 1845 crops.<sup>47</sup>

Champomier's reports for the decade of the 1850s afford some insight to growing conditions each year and therefore provide reasons for the fluctuation in production. For example, Wilkins alone produced 195 hogsheads in 1849, but only 141 in 1850 and 144 in 1851. Champomier reports that cold weather was late in coming in 1849-50; that most planters were able to harvest and process their entire crops before the first frost. The harvest of 1850, however, was impaired by a cold and rainy spring followed by a drought from July to the end of the harvest season. To climax the woes of the planters the first frost

made its appearance on the night of the 25th of October, although light, did great injury to all plantations in the prairies. A killing frost . . . took place on the nights of the 15th and 16th of November; and the last frost, which was as severe as any remembered in Louisiana, took place on the nights of 7th and 8th December. The ground was frozen hard, and all the cane standing was destroyed.<sup>48</sup>

44. Wilkins' statements concerning his investments and losses in his Louisiana plantation are found in St. Mary Original Estates 331, 761; also in St. Mary Original Suit 4098. The land was not entirely useless, however. During these first six years Wilkins grew corn and peas to feed his slaves.

The laborious and expensive task of preparing virgin lands for sugarcane cultivation may be better understood when one considers the fact that in 1850 John Wilkins owned 3,300 acres of land; nevertheless, only 500 acres had been brought into cultivation after two decades of ownership. See the 1850 Agricultural Census of St. Mary Parish, p. 733.

45. The *Planters' Banner* reported on January 14, 1847, the amount of sugar produced by each St. Mary Parish planter for the 1843 to 1846 crop years. P. A. Champomier's *Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana* (New Orleans, 1850-1859) provides production statistics for each Louisiana plantation for the crop years 1849 to 1858.

46. *Planters' Banner*, January 14, 1847.

47. Although Wilkins and Peebles partitioned their jointly held lands in 1843, they apparently continued to have some arrangement for putting the land into production. It would appear that Peebles was, during the 1830s and most of the 1840s, an absentee landowner. Therefore, it may be assumed that the figures reported in the *Banner* and in Champomier's reports were for John D. Wilkins and Co.

48. Champomier, *Statement of the Sugar Crop* (1850-51), pp. 44, 46.

The 1851 crops was damaged by drought. Meaningful rainfall did not occur until late September and early October, causing the cane to put forth a "luxuriant growth." Thus, there was insufficient time for the cane to mature before it was harvested with the result that it was low in sucrose. Many planters postponed harvesting to let the cane mature, but this proved to be a mistake when early cold killed the plants.<sup>49</sup>

As every sugar farmer, then or now, will attest, not every year is a bad year for sugar growing. Thus, all growers await the good year or years. The crop year 1852 was one of these. Wilkins' production (he had died in February, 1852) jumped to 320 hogsheads. As Champomier notes in his annual report: "The season was probably the most favorable for agricultural products generally that has ever been known in Louisiana." That it was a good year for sugar production is reflected in the fact that the 1852 crop generated over 300,000 hogsheads of sugar for the first time in the history of sugar production in Louisiana.<sup>50</sup>

It is impossible to determine whether John D. Wilkins ever considered himself to be a successful sugar planter and therefore justified in his move from Virginia to Louisiana. Certain figures, however, speak for themselves. Of the 192 St. Mary sugar producers in 1851, Wilkins ranked seventy-fifth in production. In 1852, of the 189 St. Mary sugar farmers, Wilkins' production ranked thirty-second in the parish. Such statistics, although far from conclusive, would indicate that the Virginian's sugar production was increasing significantly in relation to other parish growers.<sup>51</sup>

49. *Ibid.* (1851-52), pp. 43-44.

50. *Ibid.* (1852-53), pp. iv-v.

51. *Ibid.* (1851-52, pp. 31-36; (1852-53), pp. 31-36.

(to be continued)

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### Erath, Louisiana

The village of Erath, in Vermilion Parish, was named for Auguste Erath, a native of Switzerland. Erath settled in New Iberia in 1876 and thereafter served as mayor of that town. In time, he bought lands between New Iberia and Abbeville. When the railroad sought a right of way across his property, Mr. Erath donated it, and the railroad named the station at that point "Erath." The village subsequently grew up around the depot. (from Clare d'Artais Leeper, comp., *Louisiana Places* (Baton Rouge, 1976), p. 91.)

# Revised Index to St. Mary Parish Estates 1811 - 1900

Compiled by

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Edited and submitted by

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St. Mary Parish was formed in 1811 from St. Martin Parish. In 1868, a part of St. Mary Parish, along with a part of St. Martin Parish, was taken to form Iberia Parish. St. Mary's records are, for the most part, intact. The first 93 estates are missing, except Estate No. 48 (the succession of Achille Bérard), opened in 1816, which partially survives. The apparently complete original index survives, so that the existence of early successions and estates is known. Unfortunately, for the most part, initials rather than given names were used in the original index. Another curious fact surrounding the early index is the numbering system. Apparently numbers were reassigned (perhaps assigned for the first time) after the loss of the early records; it will be noted that the lost ones range in date from 1810 to 1821. Yet Estate No. 94, the succession of Louis Demaret, opened Sept. 4, 1815, remains intact.

Most curious of all remains the question as to what really happened to the missing records. Several theories have been advanced: fire, flood, theft. Indeed, watermarks can be seen on some of the early records, bearing testimony that early records were in fact subjected to flooding. There are marks on some of the early documents that could have resulted from flames. However, the most plausible explanation of the loss seems to be that the records were victims of the Civil War.

Officials reportedly hid the records when Union soldiers approached Franklin following the fall of New Orleans (April 1862). It has been said that some of the records were transported as far away as East Texas. It is known that a number of St. Mary families sought refuge in that area at that time. It is a fond hope that "someday" these missing links will turn up in an old trunk in "someone's" attic. Most of the decedents of the missing estates have been identified and many of their heirs have been identified. Sources used in identifications herein and the symbols used to indicate them are as follows:

Mary Elizabeth Sanders, *Annotated Abstracts of the Successions of St. Mary Parish, La., 1811-1834*—hereinafter indicated as [SM I], with page numbers.

Mary Elizabeth Sanders, *Selected Annotated Abstracts of Marriage Book I, St. Mary Parish, La., 1811-1829*—hereinafter indicated as [SM II], with page numbers.

Mary Elizabeth Sanders, *Selected Annotated Abstracts of St. Mary Parish, La., Court Records, 1811-1837*—hereinafter indicated as [SM III], with page numbers.

Mary Elizabeth Sanders, *Records of Attakapas District, La., Vol. II: St. Mary Parish, 1811-1860*—hereinafter indicated as [A II], with page numbers.

Mary Elizabeth Sanders, *Records of Attakapas District, La., Vol. III. St. Martin Parish, 1808-1860*—hereinafter indicated as [A III], with page numbers.

Rev. Donald J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*—hereinafter cited as [Hebert], with volume and page numbers.

This revised index is not by any means a duplicate of the Estate Index in the Clerk of Court's office in Franklin. Courthouse records are indexed in alphabetical categories usually involving the first two or three letters of the surname. For instance, the first category might be Aa through Ah, with the estates belonging to individuals whose surnames fall within these designations being listed in chronological order, from earliest to latest. Then the next category might be those surnames beginning Ai through Ak, etc. It has not been possible to adhere herein to the categories used in the St. Mary Parish Courthouse.

It will be noted that in assigning Estate numbers, for some reason the numbers between 1,100 and 1,999 have been omitted. Apparently this is a numbering phenomenon and not an indication of missing records. This omission is related to the Civil War. In some instances years assigned in the index to the opening of the estates do not correspond to the actual opening dates indicated in the records. This fact is especially true of those opened during and immediately after the Civil War. No attempt has been made in this revised index to verify correct dates for the opening of estates.

Each estate has been checked for accuracy as near as possible to the decedent's name as found in the documents. It should be borne in mind, however, that the early documents were handwritten. Not until the very late nineteenth century were typewriters used. Some of the handwriting is very difficult to read, and some of the earliest documents are in French.

It should be pointed out that this is an *Estate* Index and not a *Probate* Index; not all listings in the index are decedents. Some were absentee owners; some were minors; and in certain cases, some were persons who were ill physically or mentally. All estates herein that are not successions are so indicated.

In some cases the name in the estate does not correspond to that shown in the courthouse index. In this revised index both names are shown, separated by a slant (/): Thus, the succession of Michael Baylan/Boylen, opened in 1867, is listed under both surnames. In a few instances more than one estate number has been assigned to the same estate. There is no plausible explanation for this. Likewise, in some instances more than one estate has been assigned to one number. This is indicated in the revised index as a "multiple listing". Missing estate papers are also indicated. The few errors found in the original index are also noted. Some of the successions are marked "vacant"; this marking occurred when a decedent had no known heirs. Especially in the early days, it required many months to locate heirs. The term *femme sole* indicates an unmarried woman.

Many of the female decedents have been identified in this revision—as many as possible—which were not further identified in the courthouse index. Where the maiden name or the married name is not indicated in the courthouse index, but the information is available in the records themselves, this information is given and cross-referenced in the revised index. Other sources used in such identifications are shown in brackets as indicated above. An effort has been made to distinguish "wife" from "widow". When the term "widow" is used in the revised index, insofar as is known, the husband preceded the wife in death. An effort was made to ascertain that when the term "both deceased" is used as regards a community consisting of husband and wife, both parties actually were deceased prior to the opening date of the succession. Not all wives' names are included in the courthouse

index when in fact a marital community is involved. These are shown in the revised index.

Only decedents' names, or names of principals involved in the legal action, are included in the revision.

The letters "FMC", "FWC", and "FPC" following individuals' names indicate, respectively, "Free Man of Color", "Free Woman of Color", and "Free People of Color". These designations indicated, usually, former slaves who had been granted freedom. Such designations were discontinued after 1865.

A word about the surnames "Prevost" and "Provost". Because clerks in the early days seemed to have used these surnames interchangeably without regard for the preference of the individuals concerned, they have been grouped together in the revised index as a convenience.

ESTATE NO.	NAME	YEAR OPENED
44	J. W. Addison (missing)	1815
71	No doubt the succession of Mrs. William Addison, nee Julia Feagle/Teagle, widow in first marriage of Nicholas/John Smith. No date is listed for Estate No. 71. See SM I:17.	
329	Adam, FMC	1836
475	John C. Adams	1842
1077	Trasimond Adolph	1861
2209	John Able	1870
2254	John Abadie	1872
2380	William Ager	1880
2396	William Ager & Euphemie Bourgh, his wife, both deceased	1880
2602	Leah Adlem/Adleim, wife of Charles Toppino	1889
2809	Henry Adams	1896
215	Malain Aillain/Aillain, wife of Nicolas Mullain	1832
2822	Barbara Aickman, widow of John Selzner	1897
140	Ann Alexander, [2nd wife and] widow of the Rev. Charles Mynn Thruston	1825
1037	Mary Rebecca Alexander, widow of Daniel D. Richardson	1860
2313	Prudhomme Alexander	1876
2816	Mrs. Jean Pierre Alexis, nee Zoe Fortune	1896
2871	Melaine Alexis, wife of Clotain Jean Joseph	1898
48	D. Allen (Missing.) (Multiple listing.) Probably David Allen. See SM I:18.	1815
99B	Hiram Allen	1818
156	Joseph Allain/Allen (Not a succession.)	1835
215	Malain Allian/Aillain, wife of Nicolas Mullain	1832
299	Mrs. Joseph Allen/Allain, nee Clair Carlin. (Not a succession.)	1835
480	Ely S. Allaben	1842
482	William Ashe Alston	1842
612	Albert Allen	1847
2310	Mrs. Robert W. Allen, nee Sarah Ann Nixon	1876

ESTATE NO.	NAME	YEAR OPENED
2490	Hugues Allard	1884
2502	David Allen	1885
2696	Dr. Charles E. Allen	1893
2776	Mrs. Narcisse Alleman, nee Aurelia Simoneaux	1895
2796	Arthur Allen	1895
2797	Arthur Allen & Frances Elzey, his wife, both deceased.	1896
2812	Telesphore Alleman	1896
155	Ann Andrus, wife of Nicholas Edgar (Not a succession.)	1827
211	Rachel N. Andrus/Andrews, widow of James L. Johnson	1831
405	Susan Andres/Andrews, widow of Jesse E. Lacy	1839
436	Joseph Andrus/Andrews	1840
441B	William F. Anderson	1840
722	Emelia Andrus/Andrews, wife of Benjamin Borel	1850
2153	Joseph Anderson, orphan: Guardianship (Multiple listing.)	1868 1868
2174	Hiram Anderson	1869
2331	S. C. Anderson (Missing.) Note in index: Papers of this succession have become mixed with those of Estate No. 2375.	1875
2446	George W. Anderson	1881
2503	John Anderson	1885
2573	Adolph Anderson	1887
2866	John Anderson	1898
2938	Alfred Anderson	1899
522	Jacob Anselm	1844
2975	Joseph Antoine	1900
138	Anne Felicite Armand, wife of Agricole Fusilier, fils	1925
185	Margaret armstrong, widow of John Armstrong	1831
238	John Armstrong	1833
240	Louisa Armstrong, wife of Peter Hilkiah Robert	1833
270	Dr. Jean Armelin	1834
334	Josephine Armelin, wife of Laurent Sigur	1836
378	Alexander Arceneau	1838
592	Phoebe Armstrong, wife of John Joshua Garrett	1846
683	Perry M. Archer	1849
699	Mrs. Jean Armelin, nee Marie Rose Pecot	1850
894	George Armstrong	1855
1069	Jean-Baptiste Armant	1860
2219	Etienne Arceneaux	1871
2280	George Armelin	1874
2427	Mrs. George Armelin, nee Hermina Conner	1881
2682	Aristide Armelin	1892
2842	Edmond Armstrong & Priscilla Armstrong, his wife, both deceased	1897
302	Horace Atkinson	1835

ESTATE NO.	NAME	YEAR OPENED
2249	Matilda Ater	1872
54	A. Aukman (Missing.) (Multiple listing.) Probably Andre (Andrew) Aukman. See Civil Suit No. 231, St. Mary Parish, Aukman vs. Renton, filed July 12, 1820: Mary Aukman of Iberville Parish, widow of Andrew Aukman of St. Mary Parish vs. Alexander Renton.	1817
644	Lufroy Aucoin	1848
854	Joseph Aucoin	1854
937	Mrs. Louls Ambroise Aucoin, nee Marie Francoise Daigle	1856
1035	Mrs. Valsin Aucoin, nee Euphrasie Adelina Bre	1859
2346	Robert Austin	1878
2403	Valsin Aucoin	1880
2413	Honorine Aucoin, wife of Charles Maloz	1880
2421	Celestin Aucoin	1881
2514	Charles B. Austin	1885
2623 1/2	Mrs. Lufroy Aucoin, nee Felonise Gautreaux	1890
2430	Gilbert H. Ayers-Ayero in index.	1881
2924	Elmira M. Aycock, wife of Numa J. Bergeron	1899
	Babarino-See Barabino.	
399	Julie Babineau & Hypolite Breaux, her husband, both de- ceased.	1839
719	Wally Bacchus, vacant.	1850
15	J. Baker (Missing.) Undoubtedly Joshua Baker, a rela- tive of Joshua G. Baker; the will of Joshua Baker was signed in St. Mary Parish Feb. 15, 1812, and probated there April 29, 1812. In it he characterized himself as "of the district of New Feliciana in that part of the Or- leans Territory called West Florida." The will is recorded in the West Feliciana Parish Clerk of Court's office, St. Francisville, La. [SM II:76]	1812
137	Solomon Baker	1825
145	John W. Baker	1826
168	Louis Baker	1828
183	Anthony w. Baker	1830
207	Isaac L. Baker	1831
257A	Matilda Jane Sidney Bailes/Baylies, widow of David Smith	1833
282	Mrs. Joshua Baker, nee Frances Asheton Stelle [SM III:69]	1833
877	Anthony W. Baker	1855
2369	Fanny A. Baker, wife of Charles A. Palfrey	1879
179	Eliza Ann Baldwin, [1st] wife of John Craig Marsh [SM II:112]	
248	Isaac Baldwin	1833

# Music In Plantation Society

## *St. Martinville in the 19th Century*

By Robert F. Schmalz

The unusual cultural mix that marked the settlement of lands bordering the Bayou Teche has prompted the interest of scholars from several disciplines. With regard to the music of the region, this interest has for some time centered upon that singular body of folk tunes and lyrics which are a part of the legacy of those hardy French farmers who came from Nova Scotia. The resultant product of the blending influences which the Acadians experienced after their arrival in Louisiana is that which we commonly associate with the term "Cajun" music.

However, not all of those individuals making a new life in the region were the simple, hardworking Acadians of the Evangeline legend. The unsettled political climate of the late eighteenth century served to assure that all of the old world "estates" would find representation in the growing tide of immigration. Even in the best of times French aristocratic houses traditionally bestowed property and dignities upon the first-born male, thereby forcing the cadets of such families to seek their fortunes by more active enterprise. To say that the late eighteenth century did not represent the best of times for many of the most influential families in France, is understatement indeed.

The influx of French immigrants and Santo Domingo refugees combined with the established Acadian and Creole farmers to produce the seeds of a thriving plantation society along the banks of the Teche in the early nineteenth century. The unlimited opportunities, in turn, attracted a significant number of English-speaking planters and professional people from New England and the Middle Atlantic states, thereby assuring an Anglo-American flavor in a cultural development imbued with old world *sensibilité*.

The focus of this activity was the Teche community of St. Martinville. Although surpassed in growth by its neighboring towns at the beginning of this century, it has the distinction of being the oldest and perhaps the most interesting settlement in the Acadiana area. Originally known as "Poste des Attakapas," the civil and military concerns of the entire region were resolved here in the eighteenth century. In the early nineteenth century, its bustling social life and resort atmosphere earned the little town the sobriquet "Le Petit Paris."

Given the rich cultural inheritance of the growing population of St. Martinville and its environs, it is fitting that specifically musical activity should serve as a focus of interest as well. These were people who, it would seem, demanded many of the luxuries that they enjoyed elsewhere and this is reflected in the musical history of the region. However, it is unfortunate that so much of the earliest (and possibly the most significant) record of such activity is oral and hence, suspect. To illustrate, one such well circulated story has the "French Opera Company," presumably of New Orleans, performing in St. Martinville as early as the last decade of the eighteenth century. Even today one is likely to encounter local variants on this theme and in this case, these are seemingly given added credibility by the presence of several published accounts which appeared sporadically in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Much of the present confusion would seem to stem from an account of life along the Teche which appeared in George W. Cable's *Strange True Stories of Louisiana*, published in New York by Charles Scribner's Sons in 1889. Cable, whose several books on life in the



South received considerable attention in the late nineteenth century, purchased the rights to a short story entitled "The Adventures of Francoise and Suzanne" from Mme. Sidonie de la Houssaye (1820-1894), a Louisiana novelist.<sup>1</sup> The story was itself supposedly based upon the diary of a "pretty little Creole maiden" and involved "an adventurous journey," made in 1795, from New Orleans through the wilds of Louisiana. . . .<sup>2</sup> This Cable/De la Houssaye story involves a specific reference to musical activity. It seems that two young ladies, upon their arrival in St. Martinville, find themselves introduced to a society which delights in its sumptuous balls and musical theatre. With respect to the latter, we are told that during their stay in the town, the travellers witnessed a performance of "The Barber of Seville."<sup>3</sup>

Indeed, if a performance of "The Barber of Seville" was staged in St. Martinville in 1795, it would have to be considered an event of historical importance. Realistically, however, such a possibility appears to be remote when examined in light of the facts. A primary difficulty involves Cable's dating of the incident. If, in actuality, such events did transpire in the last decade of the eighteenth century, they would pre-date the birth of the operatic tradition for which New Orleans is justifiably famous. This, in itself, is highly unlikely, given the position of that city as a focus for movement to and from the Teche region. The staging of ambitious operatic works would most certainly have required the importation of musicians, and New Orleans, as the largest city and cultural hub of the region would have had to provide them. Thus, for St. Martinville to have anticipated its much larger neighbor with performances of this kind defies logic. The fact that there almost certainly was no building in the town as it existed in 1795 capable of housing such a performance simply serves to confirm the obvious.<sup>4</sup>

It is nevertheless quite conceivable that the events described by George Cable occurred, albeit, at a somewhat later date. The advent of regular steamboat service up the Teche greatly enhanced St. Martinville's accessibility as a summer resort.<sup>5</sup> If we postulate a date in the 1830s or 1840s for such a performance, then at least the circumstantial evidence which survives would not strain the credibility of the assumption. This would place the

1. At age 13, Helene Sidonie Perret, daughter of Ursin Perret and Fanie Pain of St. John the Baptist Parish, married Louis LePelletier de la Houssaye in St. Martinville, Dec. 3, 1833. He was the son of Alexandre LePelletier de la Houssaye and Marcelite de Blanc and the grandson of Chevalier Paul Alexandre LePelletier de la Houssaye and Magdeleine de Livilliers. D. J. Hebert, comp., *Southwest Louisiana Records*, 29 vols. (Privately printed, 1976-1981), Vols. II-III.

2. In 1841, Louis and Sidonie de la Houssaye moved from St. Martinville to St. Mary Parish. Louis died June 6, 1863 at age 47. Charenton Catholic Church registers, Vol. I, p. 33. Sidonie died Feb. 19, 1894. Franklin Catholic Church registers, Vol. XI, p. 177.

3. George W. Cable, *Strange True Stories of Louisiana* (New York, 1889), p. 5.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 93.

5. Edwin E. Willis, "Notes for a History of St. Martin Parish," Louisiana State University Library. A description of the town of St. Martinville by J. Cathcart in 1819 will illustrate:

St. Martinville in the parish of St. Martins, County of Attakapas, contains about 100 houses, and probably between 6 and 7 hundred inhabitants, it has a Gothic built church, jail and Courthouse, likewise an apology for a Ballroom; some of the wealthy live decently, but that is by no means general. . . . *Ibid.*, p. 51.

6. *Ibid.*, p. 55.

On May 3, 1820, the Attakapas Steam Company (chartered Feb. 26, 1819) ushered in the steamboat era in the region when it initiated service with its first boat, the *Teche*, weighing 295 tons.

event within the lifetime of Mme. de la Houssaye, and presumably Cable's source of information might even have had first-hand experience of such activities.<sup>6</sup> Further, although Cable fails to specify the composer of his "Barber of Seville," it seems probable that Rossini's version of 1816, and not the older (1792) Paisiello/Beaumarchais setting, is the most likely candidate. The Rossini opera received its premier U. S. performance in New Orleans and by all accounts, enjoyed great popularity in that city. It is therefore not unreasonable to assume that the opera, or popular arias extracted from it, would have served to entertain the residents of St. Martinville and their summer guests at some time during these decades.

Fortunately, a frustratingly few bits of concrete evidence exist to confirm a thriving social life for the town during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Local newspapers, ordinarily a good source of information, survived the region's several fires and epidemics, together with the effects of the Civil War, in only isolated issues. However, one of these, a copy of the *Attakapas Gazette and St. Mary, St. Martin and Lafayette Advertiser* of Dec. 19, 1840, contains an announcement of the opening of the Union Ballroom (Salle de l'Union).<sup>7</sup> The structure itself was built by Pierre Vasseur and has survived, little changed, as the lone remaining example of the type of hotel which served to accommodate travellers during the era of burgeoning steamboat trade along the Teche.<sup>8</sup> The newspaper announcement itself confirms Vasseur's intention to celebrate the opening with a "Grand Public Ball" on Dec. 26, 1840. Further, the owner declares that this event will be repeated "every fifteen days after that. . . ." Another indication that such galas became a regular feature of St. Martinville's social life exists in a surviving invitation, addressed to a "Madame Veuve Veillon et sa Famille." This document, dated January 12, 1841, requests the presence of these individuals at "le Bal de Societe" to be held at the "Salle de l'Union chez Vasseur" on January 23, 1841.<sup>9</sup>

Fig. 1.

**Notice.**

**THE** undersigned, respectfully informs the public, that he has just opened a large Room, called the

**UNION BALL ROOM.**

has been recently decorated and finished, is now completed and that he will give

**On Saturday, 26th inst.**

and every fifteen days after that

**A GRAND PUBLIC BALL,**

has composed of subscribers -- Price of Entrance \$2.

At 12 o'clock, a Dinner will be served to be company, in the grand hall, and the greatest attention will be paid to all present.

An excellent room, with a good fire, will be appropriated especially for the use of the ladies, as a dressing room.

Another room with a fire, will also be prepared for gentlemen who may wish to retire to play at dice, or other games.

Extra--The Bar will be furnished with liquors of the 1st quality, as well as sugar plums and cakes.

Gentlemen can bring as many ladies as they may think proper.

Persons at a distance whose names were not previously entered as others here, can do so at the door and be admitted.

Payment will be demanded only from those who attend the Ball.

**P. VASSEUR**

St. Martinville, Dec. 19, 1840

6. Since Sidonie de la Houssaye was married in St. Martinville and lived there for several years afterward, it is possible that this account was biographical.

7. See Fig. 1.

8. The building, known to local residents as the Old Castillo Hotel, was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 through the research of Mmes. Jane G. Bulliard and Marian T. Barras.

9. A reference to this document appears in Marian T. Barras and Jane G. Bulliard, *The Old Castillo Hotel* (St. Martinville, 1978). The original is the property of Mr. Edward Voorhies of St. Martinville.

If we accept as factual the numerous secondary accounts which appear in both local and national sources from about 1870 through the 1960s, such fetes became accepted as sumptuous finales for evenings which included theatre or musical/operatic entertainments. These evenings, in turn, became the hallmark of the little town, now affectionately known as "le petit Paris." Typical of these descriptions is the following:

... At the same time the reputation of Louisiana's 'Little Paris' for refinement and cool summers attracted many well-to-do residents of New Orleans. Many of the best Creole families of the state made St. Martinville a fashionable summer resort. The artists of the French Opera and the French theatres in New Orleans also spent their vacations there. Each summer the residents and visitors enjoyed concerts with selections from the best operas and performances of the witty comedies of the French *Repertoire*. The entire season was a succession of gay entertainments. ... Some of the theatrical artists married and made their homes there, giving the Little Paris on the Teche the flavor of a colony of musicians and actors both professional and amateur. ...<sup>10</sup>

Indeed, some accounts paint an even more Romantic picture:

... Now along the banks of the Teche there were Barons and Earls, a newly arrived aristocracy to dance the minuet, to whirl in fine gowns at the great balls. The remains of Marie Antoinette's court danced on in the backwoods of Louisiana. ... Near the banks of the Bayou Teche and the Evangeline Oak is the Convent of Mercy School, once the old Castillo Hotel. ... Here the French royalists staged their grandest fetes and here the French Opera Company was billeted during its annual engagements in Le Petit Paris d'Amerique.<sup>11</sup>

The latter quote will serve to illustrate the considerable difficulties involved in separating the few truths buried in a maze of popularized pseudo-history. Certainly, any surviving member of Marie Antoinette's court would have been a bit long in the tooth to have "danced in the backwoods of Louisiana," or anywhere else for that matter, in the 1840s and '50s.

10. W. P. A. Writer's Program, "St. Martinville Becomes a Fashionable Summer Resort, 1830-1855," in *Louisiana* (New York, 1941), p. 59.

References to St. Martinville during these decades can be found in the following list:

*Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, LXXIV (1887), 343.

"St. Martinville is Scene of History in Colonial Days," *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, June 14, 1929.

"St. Martin Parish—Do You Know Louisiana?", 1938, (manuscript on deposit at the Louisiana Room, Louisiana State University Library).

E. W. Williamson, "Paralysis of Law Stirs Citizens to End Allen Gangs," *Chicago Tribune*, Sept. 21, 1954.

Horace Sutton, " 'Le Petit Paris' Explored—St. Martinville is a Bit of France," *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, December 26, 1965.

"In St. Martinville—Post Office Preserves Colorful Bygone Era," *Baton Rouge State Times*, Sept. 17, 1967.

11. Sutton, "St. Martinville is a Bit of France."

In any event, not all of the musical and theatrical troupes that entertained in St. Martinville during its years as a thriving resort were concerned with promoting an old world *sensibilité*. In March 1838, an ambitious 28-year-old impresario, who was soon to become the nationally famous P. T. Barnum, arrived in New Orleans with his "showboat" steamer, the *Ceres*.<sup>12</sup> This first "travelling theatrical company" visited the Attakapas country after a few weeks of performances in the Crescent City. Although Barnum does not specifically mention St. Martinville, he certainly must have performed there. Unfortunately for Barnum, the parish residents evidently didn't find his troupe as entertaining as Colonel Ame's "New Orleans Menagerie and Circus," a perennial favorite which counted among its attractions "Signorita Ella Eugenia, the Fairy Lion Queen."<sup>13</sup> Barnum's troupe was forced to disband, exchanging the steamer for sugar and molasses in Opelousas.<sup>14</sup>

The third quarter of the century appears to have been a period during which the town was occupied with concerns which made the question of entertainment secondary. These were not the best of times for any of the Teche communities and St. Martinville was no exception. The depredations of the war and the years immediately following it served to disrupt the vital steamboat link with New Orleans. This, together with the disastrous fire of 1856 and periodic outbreaks of yellow fever, severely curtailed the tourist trade upon which the reputation of the town as a haven for artists and musicians had been built.

Because of a dearth of published information specifically relating to St. Martinville, the early signs of at least a limited revitalization for the town must be inferred from information pointing to a general social recovery for the region. We know, for example, that travelling minstrel shows, musicals and circuses resumed their visits to New Iberia in the early 1870s.<sup>15</sup> Surely such entertainments would have been welcomed back to "le petit Paris," just a few miles upstream on the Teche, about the same time.

With the completion of the rail link between New Orleans and Texas through the region during the 1880s, the economic and social competition among area communities intensified. In particular, New Iberia and Lafayette experienced the beginnings of an expansion which inevitably spelled the eclipse of St. Martinville's fortunes. It became obvious to many in the state during these years that the little community on the Teche could compete neither economically nor industrially with the burgeoning rail center a few miles to the northwest on the Vermilion.

The realization prompted a series of published laments; some of these carried the unmistakable flavor of epitaphs. An article which appeared in the New Orleans *Times-Democrat* for August 11, 1892, will serve to illustrate:

This place is redolent of romance and antiquity. It makes an impression upon one that it is irreverent to criticise it. It has a certain commanding venerableness about it that is awe-inspiring. It affects one like a noble ruin, dear for its beautiful part, worthy of respect for its hoary respectability. . . .

But time has sadly changed its former beauty into a sweet, pathetic memory; and it has passed into the category of things of the bygone. . . .<sup>16</sup>

12. P. T. Barnum, *Struggles and Triumphs: or, Forty Years Recollections of P. T. Barnum* (New York, 1871).

13. Writer's Program, *Louisiana*, p. 59.

14. Barnum, *Struggles*, p. 152.

15. Maurine Bergerie, *They Tasted Bayou Water* (New Orleans, La., 1962), pp. 90-93.

16. M. B. Hillyard, "St. Martinville, La.—One of the Most Interesting Towns in the State," *Times-Democrat*, August 11, 1892, p. 9.

Reports of the demise of "le petit Paris" may have been a bit premature, however. Certainly in matters relating to the vitality of its society, the town was not ready to relinquish its former pre-eminence. Thus, while a perusal of the records for the closing decades of the nineteenth century documents an increased number and variety of musical entertainments in neighboring communities which tend to parallel their general growth, a corresponding decline in such activities does not seem to occur in St. Martinville at this time.<sup>17</sup>

A second St. Martinville emerges, much more thoroughly documented, in the last fifteen years of the nineteenth century. The *St. Martinville Messenger*, written from the first entirely in English, appeared in 1886 and regularly contained a column devoted to happenings in the community. A perusal of these columns, together with other contemporary accounts, has yielded a reasonably detailed picture of musical activity in the town for these years.

Indeed, the most striking conclusion prompted by such research involves the degree to which the town retained its cultural traditions while at the same time acquiring an unmistakable taste for purely "American" forms of musical entertainment. With respect to the former, the number of St. Martinville's older residents who, when interviewed, mentioned being taught arias from popular French operas, is noteworthy. Certainly, by the mid-80s, New Orleans residents had begun to find other areas of escape from the city during the summer months, thereby contributing to the decline of "le petit Paris" as a haven for artists and musicians. It would appear, instead, that St. Martinville natives took advantage of the increased accessibility to New Orleans which the railroad provided, satisfying their love of French opera by attending performances in that city with increasing regularity.

St. Martinville evidently remained a stop on a regular circuit during this period, as evidenced by the wealth and variety of imported musical entertainment reported in the local paper. Many of the travelling troupes performed in Duchamp's Hall, a second floor multipurpose theatre, concert hall and ballroom located on the main street of the town.<sup>18</sup> An announcement of a "Grand Concert" by one such troupe is typical:<sup>19</sup>

The famous Joseph Heine troupe will give a grand concert at Duchamp's Hall on Friday [Nov. 13]. This troupe is composed of artists who have won fame throughout the United States and Europe.

We engage our people to attend this concert, as they will not soon have an opportunity to see and hear artists as those who will perform here.

It must be remembered also that one third of the gross receipts will go to the school board to be used for the high school at this place.

A price of admission is: Adults 50 cents and children 25 cents.

Visits by these troupes often served as excuses for extended celebrations, as illustrated by the account of the day-long festivities, which was occasioned in part by the presence in town of the Southern Medicine Company of New Orleans:<sup>20</sup>

17. Nancy T. Hock, "Recreational Pursuits of Lafayette Parish Residents, 1890-1900," *Attakapas Gazette*, XII (1977), 114-24.

18. See Fig. 2.

19. *St. Martinville Weekly Messenger*, November 7, 1891.

20. *Weekly Messenger*, August 7, 1892.

The Excelsior Brass Band [of St. Martinville]<sup>21</sup> were fortunate and successful in their entertainment given at the Duchamp Hall last Sunday.

Never have we seen so many people in the hall before, it was crowded almost to suffocation. It contained nearly six hundred persons.

The Brass Band had also organized a steamboat excursion from New Iberia. The band went to that place Saturday and came on the boat to furnish music to the excursionists. . . .

The play selected for this occasion was 'Ma Femme et Mon Parapluï', a French Comedy. In the cast were Messrs. Albert, Charles and Dan Voorhies, Dumas Hebert, and Miss Marie Rose Delahoussaye. . . . After the French play, the members of the Southern Medicine Company, of New Orleans, volunteered their services for the occasion and rendered some of their nice song[s], dances and plays. Their assistance helped to make the entertainment part of the evening complete, and their kindness was highly appreciated by the members of the [local] band and the large audience.

When the theatrical part was over, the boys hurriedly cleared the hall of its benches and chairs, and soon after the captivating strains of the sweet music touched the tender chord of those who are disciples of the terpsichorian art. The ball lasted until a late hour, when the gay party left for their homes, after having enjoyed the pleasures of the evening.

It is interesting to note that the advent of the railroad had not entirely replaced the steamboat trade on the Teche during the last decades of the century. Indeed, the *Weekly Messenger* records the visits of several showboats during these years. Such vessels would moor at the public dock, staging performances on board. The following account is illustrative:<sup>22</sup>

French's Sensation troop gave two performances here Saturday and Sunday to a crowded house each night. Sunday the crowd was so large that nearly one hundred and fifty persons were refused admittance on account of the large crowd that was jammed in the boat. The show is as good as can be expected, and has given general satisfaction. The Sensation will be a welcomed visitor wherever she will go. . . .

Evidently, Mr. French and his company were respected performers. In a review of another visit we are told that he ". . . has the reputation of being the only honest showman traveling. . ." and that "At the new Sensation you get a flow of three hours of solid fun for only twenty-five cents."<sup>23</sup>

Many talented amateurs received their musical training locally. A school for young ladies operated by the Sisters of Mercy offered music as a major subject. The commencement exercises of this institution featured all types of musical performance and these festivities drew large audiences from the town and surrounding area.<sup>24</sup>

21. See Fig. 2.

22. *Weekly Messenger*, April 28, 1888.

23. *Ibid.*, Feb. 2, 1889.

24. A typical commencement program may be found in *ibid.*, June 20, 1888.



Fig. 2. *Excelsior Brass Band performs in front of Duchamp' Hall.*

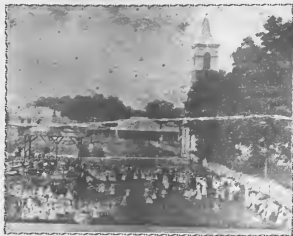


Fig. 3. *Band members on bandstand play in concert. This picture, taken sometime in the 1890s, was the occasion of some celebration since all women and girls are dressed in white.*

Indeed, the town produced its share of trained, serious musicians as well. A few of these individuals attained a considerable reputation. To illustrate, the following account appeared in the *Weekly Messenger* for October 5, 1889:

We read with great pleasure the article in last Sunday's Picayune [New Orleans], which will be read with as much interest by the people of Saint Martinville:

Mr. Armand Veazey, the cornetist of the West End Orchestra [New Orleans] will on next Sunday evening at the Academy of Music, be presented with a magnificent gold cornet set with diamonds. Mr. Veazey is a young Louisianian and a clever cornetist. He met with success in New York and San Francisco during several seasons and has been engaged for the Winter at the Academy. Mayor Charles Hoyt will make the presentation speech. The cornet will be displayed at Werlein's on Canal Street.

Armand is a native of Saint Martinville.

One name that appears with regularity is that of Felix Voorhies (1830-1919). During a long and fulfilling life, this popular jurist contributed to the social life of his town in a variety of ways. Voorhies was a prolific amateur composer, a musician, and a dilettante whose thespian interests led to the establishment of the first amateur theatrical group in St. Martinville.<sup>25</sup>

The *Weekly Messenger* mentions many amateur musicians who enlivened the town in the closing decades of the nineteenth century. One of these was Miss Marie Rose Delahoussaye who, as organist for the town's venerable Catholic church, played an impressive list of major works for that instrument. In addition, Miss Delahoussaye performed in soirees and a variety of entertainments and, like her contemporary Felix Voorhies, was an amateur composer of some merit. One of her compositions—a keyboard work entitled "Francis T. Nicholls, Grand March" dedicated to the governor of Louisiana—attained statewide popularity.<sup>26</sup>

These were years in which the brass band became an established form of American musical entertainment, and in this respect "le petit Paris" was perhaps more "American" than most. St. Martinville could boast at least three such organizations during the last decade of the century.<sup>27</sup> The Excelsior Brass Band seemed to be a fixture in the community, performing for sundry occasions from parades through soirees and balls.<sup>28</sup> Mentioned as well, is the Union Brass Band,<sup>29</sup> comprised of black musicians, and near the turn of the century, the Grieg Brass Band.<sup>30</sup> Local bands often provided music for the processions which served as preliminaries for important services at St. Martin de Tours. The

25. Ruth T. Grant, "The Men, the Years: Where Have They Gone?" *Attakapas Gazette*, XV (1980), 105.

26. *Weekly Messenger*, August 11, 1888, contains an interesting account of one "gala entertainment," which "taxed Duchamp's Hall to its utmost capacity", in which Miss Delahoussaye and several other local performers took part.

27. In this respect at least, it surpassed Lafayette, which evidently failed in its effort to organize a group until almost the turn of the century.

See Hock, "Recreational Pursuits," 113.

28. See *Weekly Messenger*, August 27, 1892; May 8, 1886; Sept. 14, 1895.

29. *Ibid.*, May 22, 1886.

30. *Ibid.*, March 4, 1899.



*Weekly Messenger* records two such events in May, 1886 alone. The following is an account which appeared in the May 8th issue: "The True Friends Society, with the [Excelsior] Brass Band in procession, attended a mass at the Catholic Church last Thursday morning. . . ." On May 22, the following report was published:

The 'Dames de Progres', a benevolent colored society, attended an anniversary mass at the Catholic Church last Thursday morning, in procession, headed by the Union Brass Band. . . .

These instrumental ensembles appear to have played a role in the religious life of the community above and beyond their function in processions. Several accounts indicate that the bands even performed for the church services themselves. Special occasions were often marked by such performances. References to the [Excelsior] band playing "during Mass and at Benediction" for a first Holy Communion on Aug. 27, 1883; and again, during Easter services on March 25, 1884(?), are illustrative.<sup>31</sup> Another special occasion, this time the Oct. 11, 1887-celebration in honor of the arrival of the new pastor of St. Martin de Tours, Rev. Langlois, found both the Excelsior and the Union bands participating—colored in the morning and white after seven o'clock!<sup>32</sup>

Like so many towns in this country, St. Martinville erected outdoor pavillions to accommodate the performances of its bands. Records verify that at least two of these constructs provided shelter for bandmen as they played in concert and for dancing. One such bandstand, a surprisingly elaborate structure, located on the town green near the church, is captured in the rare photograph (dating from the early 1890s) which is reproduced in Fig. 3.<sup>33</sup> The existence of a second platform is confirmed by the publication of the following lament:<sup>34</sup>

It is to be regretted that Mr. Martial Bienvenue has broken the dancing platform at his grove near the railroad, which was the most popular place of amusement in the town. Such a place is a necessity in a town the size of St. Martinville. Some private individual who owns a good location, will undoubtedly erect a platform for the coming season, or some organization will have to be formed for that purpose. . . .

At least one local product of this tradition graduated to the ranks of professional musicians. Louis Tapissier, a cornetist, found employment in the pit orchestras of New Orleans' several opera houses.<sup>35</sup>

Times change, and conditions, for better or for worse, rarely remain static. For St. Martinville, the new century marked a foreseeable decline in the town's former position as a social bellweather for the communities of the upper Teche. Although the "high-noon and hot flush of prosperity and fashion have gone . . ."<sup>36</sup> an aura of elegance remains—a heritage serving to distinguish "le petit Paris" for years to come.

31. The writer is indebted to Ms. Marian Barras of St. Martinville, who provided her notes relating to music in the Church of St. Martin de Tours. These notes were originally extracted by Ms. Barras, with special permission, from the *Chronicles of the Sisters of Mercy* [New Orleans] and thus appear here only through the generosity of that Order.

32. *Ibid.*

33. Photograph from the collection of Ms. Marian Barras, St. Martinville, La.

34. *Weekly Messenger*, Sept. 14, 1895.

35. *Ibid.*, Sept. 13, 1890.

36. Hillyard, "St. Martinville, La."

# Indices to

## St. Landry Parish Probate Court Suits

### 1822 - 1846

Compiled by Keith P. Fontenot

(Continued from Vol. XVI, No. 4)



PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	DATE	SUIT NO.
Collins, William	William Moore, Admr. M. Collins Est.	Dec. 21, 1830	85
Collins, William Conner	Murtough Collins	Dec. 5, 1826	39
Corkin, Elizabeth, Heirs	John McDaniel	Nov. 25, 1841	205
Cormier, Carmazile	Baptiste Girard, et ux.	Sept. 4, 1824	15
Cullom, Francis, et ux.	Alexandre Duggins, N.T. of D. Duggins	Sept. 29, 1826	47
Darwin, James	Heirs of John Keithley	July 10, 1827	44
Debaillon, Evariste	Felix Dejean, et al.	Nov. 23, 1838	172
Debaillon, Evelina, wife of Eugene Wartelle	Louis Debaillon, Admr.	Oct. 1, 1845	286
Debaillon, Jean M.	Mary Ann Gregory	June 12, 1830	75
Debaillon, J. M., Tu. et al.	John Ponsony	May 26, 1826	35
Debaillon, J. M., Cur.	B. F. Linton	Sept. 16, 1831	100
Debaillon, John M.	Jean Ponsony	Jan. 3, 1828	48
Debaillon, John M., Est. of	Tableau	Jan. 18, 1843	231
Debaillon, Louis	Jean-Jose Louallier	March 26, 1845	274
Dejoux, Victor	Jacques Gerard, Exec.	July 28, 1842	223
Dekerlegand, Louis G.	Francois Robin, Admr.	Dec. 5, 1845	289
Dekerlegand, Louis G.	Francois Robin, Admr.	Dec. 15, 1845	290
Derbigny, Casimer, Est.	Tableau	Aug. 24, 1845	226
Deshautelle, Andre, U.T.	Jean B. Soileau, N.T.	July 13, 1844	260
Devalcourt, Theodore	Heirs and widow of Leon Boutte	July 20, 1832	109
Dewell, Stephen	Clement Hollier, fils, U.T.	Sept. 18, 1845	285
Donato, Francois, f.p.c.	Tableau	Aug. 1, 1839	177
Doucet, Clara, wife of Clement Hollier, fils	Alexis Latour	May 20, 1844	258
Doucet, Eloi, Est. of	Tableau	Jan. 9, 1846	292
Doucet, Francois	Susan Doucet	May 19, 1826	34
Downing, E. R.	Vouchers	Dec. 4, 1832	116
Drake, John F.	John Wilslare & Wlm.	Feb. 4, 1842	208
Dugat, Eloy	Jean B. Chaisson	May 8, 1838	162
Dunlap, Alexandre, Est.	Tableau	Feb. 6, 1841	193
Duplessis, Francois, Sr.	Bridget Lamb, Tux, et al.	Oct. 18, 1824	16
Dupre, Antoine	Felix Dejean, et al.	Nov. 23, 1838	172
Dupre, Antoine	Lewis Andrus, et al.	Feb. 4, 1842	209
Dutton, Philomela, widow of David Todd	Charlotte Todd, et al.	May 4, 1830	72
Duvigneau, Charles	Joel M. Bell, Admr.	Sept. 23, 1837	157

PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	DATE	SUIT NO.
Dwight, Amos T.	William Link, Admr.	March 18, 1845	273
Elliot, Willis, U. T.	Jeremiah Baldwin, Tu.	May 6, 1828	54
Embra, Lucy, et al.	Edward W. Taylor & Basil C. Crow	Sept. 29, 1835	131
Ferguson, Ransom P.	Maurin Moore, et al.	Dec. 18, 1840	191
Ferguson, Ransom P.	Maurin Moore, et al.	Dec. 18, 1840	190
Finet, Francois	Julien Jubertie, Aug. 1, 1842 Admr.		224
Finley, Ann E., Heirs	Thomas H. Lewis, Ut.	Oct. 25, 1838	171
Flaujac, Charles Garrigues, Est. of	Tableau of classification	Aug. 1, 1838	152
Fontenot, Gervais	Eugene Petitin, Admr.	Mar. 4, 1843	232
Fontenot, Josephine, wife of J. C. Daigle	Antoine Baptiste Fontenot, et al.	Jan. 25, 1831	86
Fontenot, Julienne, Heirs	Andre Nicolas Deshautel	Aug. 10, 1837	154
Fontenot, Marie Jeanne, Est.	Tableau	May 21, 1846	309
Fontenot, Philippe L.	Hilaire Gradenigo	May 24, 1842	216
Francois, Raymond	Heirs and widow of Luc Hollier	Mar. 26, 1827	41
Gaberel, Ulysse, et al.	Jean F. Gaberel	Oct. 22, 1845	288
Gazenget, Andre	Emilie Stelly, widow	Jan. 31, 1844	249
Garland, Marcelin	Hilaire Gradenigo	May 24, 1842	218
Gaspard, David	Petition for Inter- diction	Feb. 2, 1844	251
Glaze, Gideon M.	Confirmation of slave titles	Feb. 7, 1837	146
Gradenigo, Auguste	Richard H. Lumpkin, Admr.	July 27, 1844	262
Gradenigo, Brigete, Heirs	Louis Fontenot, et al.	June 17, 1843	237
Gradenigo, Hilaire, Est. of	Tableau	Aug. 18, 1845	280
Gradenigo, Joseph	Philippe Boutte	June 2, 1827	45
Gradenigo, Joseph, f.m.c.	George R. King, Admr.	June 15, 1838	164
Gradenigo, Rachel, f.w.c.	Hilaire Gradenigo	May 24, 1842	219
Gray, Joseph, syndic of Gray & Taylor	William Haslett Curator	Mar. 5, 1823	5
Guautil, Pierre	Onezime Prudhomme	Aug. 12, 1843	240
Guilbeau, Ozeme	Raphael Richard, Admr.	June 27, 1843	238
Guidry, Auguste	Estate	May 22, 1846	311
Guilbert, Louis	John D. Smith	June 28, 1825	26
Guillory, Marianne M., et al.	Cyprien Dupre, Tu. et al.	June 27, 1842	220
Haggard, Anna	Isaac Griffith, et al.	Dec. 14, 1838	173
Haggard, Mary, wife of Solmon Robb, et al.	Jacob G. Keller, Curator	Oct. 10, 1833	120

(To be continued)

# Records of Belle Isle-en-Mer

*Translated by Mathé Allain*

*(Continued from Vol. XVI, No. 4)*

## *Family of Pierre Richard of Kerbellec, parish of Palais*

In the year 1767, on February 9, appeared Pierre Richard, from Kerbellec in this parish, who in the presence of Honoré LeBlanc, Joseph LeBlanc, Olivier Daire, and Laurent Babin, all Acadians of this parish, witnesses, declared that he was born at Port Royal, Acadia, on November 15, 1710, to Pierre Richard and Magdelaine Giroûard. Pierre Richard, the deponent's father who died at Port Royal in 1726, was the son of René Richard and Magdelaine Lnadry, both of whom died in the said place; the said René Richard was the son of another René Richard, nicknamed «Sans Souci,» who came from France and married at Port Royal Marie Blanchard, both of them dying at the said place. The said Magdelaine Giroûard, who died at Port Royal in 1752, was the daughter of Jacques Giroûard and Anne Gautrot. Jacques Giroûard was the son of another Jacques Giroûard, called «La Varanne,» who had come from France with his wife Jeanne Aucoin to settle at Port Royal. Both of them died at the said place.

From the marriage of the late Pierre Richard and the late Marie Giroûard who were married at Port Royal in 1709 were born at the said place:

Pierre Richard, deponent, as mentioned above.

Joseph Richard, born in the month of June 1713, married at the said Port Royal in 1743 to Marie Blanchard, daughter of Antoine Blanchard and Elizabeth Theriot who went to Canada with their families.

Marie Richard, born in 1715, married at the said place to Pierre Forest, daughter of René Forest and François Dugast, the said Pierre Forest died at Beaubassin in 1750. The said Marie Richard married a second time Charles Savoye, son of François Savoye and Anne Richard who went to Canada with their family.

Anne Richard, born in 1716, married at the same place to Jean Forest, son of René Forest and Françoise Dugast, deported with their family to the English colonies.

Jean-Baptiste Richard, in 1717 married at the same place to Jeanne Guilbault, daughter of Pierre Guilbault and Magdelaine Forest, both deported with their family to the English colonies.

Simon Richard, in 1719, single, deported to the English colonies.

Armand Richard, in 1721, married at the said place to Marguerite Broussard, daughter of Jean Broussard and Cecile Babin, deported with their family to the English colonies.

François Richard, in 1723, married at the said place to Anne Broussard, daughter of Jean Broussard and Cecile Babin, deported with their family to the English colonies.

Claude Richard, born in 1726, single, gone to Canada.

The above-mentioned Pierre Richard, deponent, married at Mines, parish of St. Charles, on August 16, 1740, Joséphe LeBlanc, born at the said place in 1715, daughter of Antoine LeBlanc and Anne Landry, twin sister of Brigitte LeBlanc, mother of Joseph and Mathurin who live at Kergoyet in this parish where the genealogy was done and recorded.

From the first marriage were born at Pisiquid, parish of the Holy Family:

Marie Richard, on August 15, 1741, married to Aimable Hebert of ———, parish of Locmaria.

Joseph Ignace Richard, on February 17, 1743, married to Marguerite LeBlanc, daughter of Charles LeBlanc and Elizabeth Thibodeau who live at Keroudet (?), parish of Bangor.

Jean-Charles Richard, in March 1745, single. He has gone to the Islands.

Catherine Richard, born in February 1747, married to Simon Trahan, who lives in ——— Triboutour, parish of Sauzon.

Brigette Richard, born on March 10, 1749, single.

Simon Richard, born on January 18, 1752, single.

The said Brigette and the said Simon live with their father in the village of Kerbellec, in this parish.

The said Marie Josephe LeBlanc, wife of the deponent, died at Liverpool on April 12, 1761.

The said Pierre Richard, deponent, was married a second time in Morlaix, parish of St. Matthew, bishopric of Treguier, on October 3 (30?), 1763, to Françoise Daigre, born at Rivière aux Canards, parish of St. Joseph, in May 1730, to Olivier Daigre and Françoise Granger, sister born of the same ancestors, of Honoré, Olivier, and Paul Daigre who live at Chubigny, parish of Palais where the genealogy was recorded.

The said Françoise Daigre married a first time at the Rivière aux Canards, parish of St. Joseph, on May 15, 1748, Simon Joseph Theriot, born at the said place in 1727 to Claude Theriot and Agnée Aucoin. Claude Theriot died at the same place in October 1752. He was the son of another Claude Theriot and of Marie Gautrot of Port Royal. Both died at the said place and Claude Theriot was the of Jean Theriot who came from France and settled at Port Royal and died at the said place. The said Agnée Aucoin died in Falmouth in October 1756. She was the daughter of Martin Aucoin who came from France and Marie Gaudet, who settled at the said Rivière aux Canards; both died there.

From the marriage of the said Françoise Daigre with the said Simon Joseph Theriot, were born at Rivière aux Canards, parish of Saint Joseph:

Paul Theriot, in May 1749.

Elizabeth Theriot, in March 1753, both of whom live with their mother Françoise Daigre at Kerbellec.

From the second marriage of Pierre Richard with the said Françoise Daigre were born:

Anselme Richard, born in Morlaix, parish of St. Matthew, bishopric of Tregnier, on February 3, 1765.

Simon Joseph Louis Richard, born at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, parish of St. Gerard, on November 20, 1766. Such is the declaration of the said Pierre Richard. Reading was given to him and he declared it to be the truth. He declared he could not sign. According to the ordinances and decree of the palais of Belle-Isle-en-Mer, follow the signature of the mentioned witnesses, that of Jacques-Marie Chollet, priest, Jean-Louis LeLoutre, missionary, and ours, on this day, March 2.

Joseph LeBlanc  
Olivier Daigre

Honoré LeBlanc  
L.Babin  
Thebaut

J. M. Chollet

J. M. LeLoutre

*Declaration of Father LeLoutre,  
former vicar of the diocese of Quebec  
in Canada*

On March 2, 1767, the said Father LeLoutre declared that the Acadians on this island were deported by the English to Boston and three English colonies in October 1755, from these colonies they were sent to England and dispersed among various sections of the kingdom during the year 1756. In 1763, after the peace treaty, they were brought to France by the king's ships and settled in various harbors. In 1765, during October, they came to this island, as ordered by the Duke of Choiseul, Minister of Marine. This statement he affirmed to be true and signed after it was read to him on the said day and year.

J. M. LeLoutre,  
priest and missionary

*Parish of Sauzon*

*Genealogy of the Acadians Settled in Sauzon Parish,  
Belle-Isle-en-Mer  
in the Year 1767*

Certificats from the Registers of the Genealogy of the Acadians  
Established in Sauzon Parish,  
at Belle-Isle-en-Mer

(Sample certificate): he said ———, born at ———, parish of ———, in the month of ——— 176—; from the marriage of ——— and ———, as stated in the genealogy of the Acadians settled in Sauzon parish at Belle-Isle-en-Mer.

The certificates are signed at the registers by Simon-Pierre Daigre, Joseph Babin, Armand Granger, Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, J. M. LeLoutre, priest and missionary, Joseph Beriot, pastor of Sauzon, and Thebaut, commissioner.

We, the mayor, municipal officers, and prosecutor of the commune of Sauzon, parish of Belle-Isle-en-Mer, certify this certificate as duplicating the registers in this township.

*Sauzon*

This register contains thirty stamped paper rolls, the first and last of which were signed by us, François Lucas du Moltays, former advocate, in the absence of the *sénéchal* of Auray, numbered so that they might be used to inscribe the baptisms and marriages in Sauzon parish in 1767 among the Acadians presently at Belle-Isle. Done at Auray, January 30, 1767.

Lucas du Moltays,  
former advocate

In the year 1767, on February 18, before noon, we, Jean-Marie Thebaud, notary and public prosecutor of the royal *marquissat* of Belle-Isle-en-Mer, having been entrusted with

recording the genealogy of the Acadians recently settled on this island, as ordered by the decree of last January 12, in virtue of which and of the selection of us by the Acadians of the four parishes of the island, took an oath before Lucas du Moltrays, former advocate of the royal seat of Auray, in the absence of the *sénéchal*, as instructed by Hilarion Allain, advocate of the said seat and deputy mayor, royal prosecutor, on January 30, and to execute the said decree, we opened this register before the venerable and discrete Joseph Benoit, pastor of Sauzon, the venerable and discrete Jean-Louis LeLoutre, former vicar of the diocese of Quebec, missionary and spiritual director of the said Acadian families, Jacques Fronteaux de Laclos, royal prosecutor of this jurisdiction, under their signatures, and ours, the said day, month, and year.

J. M. LeLoutre, priest  
Thebaud

J. Benoit, pastor of Sauzon  
Jacques Fronteaux de Laclos,  
royal prosecutor

(Translator's note: Here the text of the royal decree of January 12, 1767, ordering the Acadian genealogy is reproduced. For a complete transcription of the decree, see above, Attakapas Gazette, vol. XVI, no. 3.)

*Genealogy of the Acadian Families in Parish of Sauzon,  
Belle-Isle-en-Mer, Entered into This Register as Ordered  
in the Aforementioned Decree.*

On February 28, 1767, appeared Louis Courtin, sharecropper, who lives in the village of Arpens de Triboutous, in the parish of Sauzon, who, in the presence of Simon Pierre Daigre, Joseph Babin, Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, and Armant Granger, all Acadians of this island, declared he was born in the parish of Saint-Nicolas de Fretevaux, fief of Dunois, bishopric of Blois, son of Jean-Baptiste Courtin and Marie-Anne Pellereau, native of Blois, parish of Saint-Honoré, married at Cork, Ireland, on September 15, 1761, and Marie-Josèphe Martin, born at Port Royal in 1740, daughter of Michel Martin and Magdelaine Giroùard. Michel Martin was the son of Etienne Martin and Marie Commeau, and Etienne Martin, son of René Martin who had come from France and who married at Port Royal Marguerite Landry, both of them having died there. Magdelaine Giroùard was born at Port Royal to Guillaume Giroùard, son of Jacques Giroùard and Anne Gautrot of Port Royal. Jacques Giroùard was the son of another Jacques Giroùard who had come from France with his wife Jeanne Aucoin. They settled at Port Royal and died there.

From the marriage of Michel Martin and Magdelaine Giroùard were born at Port Royal:  
Marie-Josèphe Martin, wife of Louis Courtin.

Françoise Martin, in 1742.

Marguerite Martin, in 1743, who went to Quebec with an uncle.

Anastasie Martin, in 1745, both Françoise and Anastasie Martin living on this island, in the village of Arpens de Triboutous, parish of Sauzon, with Marie-Josèphe Martin, their sister, wife of the said Courtin.

From the marriage of Louis Courtin, born in Saint-Nicolas Parish on April 16, 1730, and Marie-Josèphe Martin were born:

Marie-Françoise Courtin, born at Bandon, Ireland, on September 16, 1762.

Mathurine Olive Courtin, born at Morlaix, parish of Saint-Martin, bishopric of Saint-Paul de Leon, on December 16, 1764.

Louise Auguste Courtin, born at Belle-Isle, parish of Sauzon, on December 30, 1766.

Concludes with the signatures of the said Courtin and those of Father Joseph Benoit, pastor of Sauzon, Father LeLoutre, and ours, clerk at Sauzon, March 12 of the said year, the word «twenty-eight» corrected, the word «September» crossed out, and signed by the above-named witnesses.

Simon P. Daigre

Joseph Babin

J. M. LeLoutre, missionary priest

J. Benoit, pastor of Sauzon

Louis Courtin

Armand Granger

Thebaud, clerk

*Family of Claude Pitre of the Village of Arpens Tributous,  
Parish of Sauzon*

On February 29, 1767, appeared Claude Pitre of Arpens Tributous, parish of Sauzon, who in the presence of Simon Pierre Daigre, Joseph Babin, Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, and Armand Granger, witnesses, all Acadians living on this island, declared that he was born at Port Royal, on May 13, 1700, to Marc Pitre and Jeanne Le Brun of the said place. Marc Pitre was the son of Jean Pitre, of Flemish origin, and Marie Pincelet, from Paris. Jeanne Le Brun was the daughter of Sebastien Le Brun and Henriette Bourg. Sebastien Le Brun was the son of Vincent Le Brun who had come from France with his wife, Marie Brautte, from Tours. Both died at Port Royal.

The said Claude Pitre was married in Cobequid, parish of Saint-Pierre and Saint-Paul, on June 12, 1724, to Elizabeth Guerin, born at Cobequid on September 29, 1704, to Jérôme Guerin and Elizabeth Aucoin. Jérôme Guerin was the son of another Jérôme Guerin, who had come from France and was married to Marie Blanchard. Jérôme Guerin died at Port Royal and Marie Blanchard at Beaubassin. Elizabeth Aucoin was born at Beaubassin to Martin Aucoin, who had come from France and who married at Port Royal Marie Gaudet. Both died there.

From the first marriage of Claude Pitre and Elizabeth Guerin was born at Cobequid in the said parish of Saint-Pierre and Paul, on December 17, 1726, a boy named Joseph Pitre, who married at the said place. Anne Bourg, daughter of Ambroise Bourg and Elizabeth Melançon, presently at Isle St-Jean in North America, bishopric of Quebec. The said Elizabeth Guerin died with the rest of her family in 1758 in the wreck of the English ship which was transporting some of the Acadian families from the said Isle St-Jean to Europe.

The said Claude Pitre married a second time at Liverpool in England on May 9, 1760, Magdelaine Darois, born at Mines, parish of St-Charles, in 1715, to Jérôme Darois from Paris, who had married at Port Royal Marie Gareau. He died at the Rivière Petitcodiac in Beaubassin; the said Marie Gareau died in Virginia. She was the daughter of Dominique Gareau, who had come from France and married Anne Gaudet at Port Royal. Both of them died there.

The said Magdelaine Darois had married first at Mines, parish of Saint-Charles in 1749 Alexis Trahan, born at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption, in 1727, to Alexandre Trahan of Port Royal and Marguerite Le Jeune. Alexandre Trahan was the son of another Alexandre Trahan of Port Royal who married at the said place Marie Pellerin. The said Alexandre Trahan was the son of Guillaume Trahan who had come from France and Magdelaine Brun, both of whom died at Port Royal. Marguerite Le Jeune was born at Port Royal in 1698. She was the daughter of Pierre Le Jeune and Marie Thibodeau of Port Royal. The



said Pierre Le Jeune was the son of another Pierre Le Jeune who had come from France, married at Port Royal and died there.

From the marriage of Magdelaine Darois and Alexis Trahan, who died in England at Liverpool in July 1756, was born at Pisiquid, parish of Assumption on August 10, 1752, Paul Trahan, only son of that marriage who lives at Arpens de Triboutous, parish of Sauzon, with his mother and stepfather Claude Pitre. Such is the declaration of the said Claude Pitre. It was read to him, and he declared it true and that he could not sign. According to the decree, concluded and done over the signature of the aforementioned witnesses in the presence of Joseph Benoit, pastor of Sauzon, Father Jean-Marie LeLoutre, missionary priest and in ours, clerk of Sauzon, on March 12 of the said year.

Simon P. Daigre

Armand Granger

Thebaud, clerk

J. M. LeLoutre, priest

J. Benoit, pastor of Sauzon

*Family of Sylvestre and Simon Trahan,  
Brothers in the Village of Arpens Triboutous,  
Parish of Sauzon*

On February 28, 1767, appeared Sylvestre and Simon Trahan, brothers living separately in Arpens Triboutous who declared in the presence of Simon Pierre Daigre, Joseph Babin, Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, and Armand Granger, witnesses, all Acadians living on this island, that the said Sylvestre Trahan was born at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption, in 1724, the son of Jean Trahan who had been born at the said place in 1698 and Charlotte Comeau. Jean Trahan was the son of Guillaume Trahan and Jacqueline Benoit. Guillaume Trahan was the son of another Guillaume Trahan who came from France and married at Port Royal Magdelaine Brun. Both died at the said place. Charlotte Comeau was the daughter of Jean Comeau and François Hebert of Port Royal. Jean Comeau was the son of another Jean Comeau who came from France, married and died at port Royal. Françoise Hebert was the daughter of Etienne Hebert who came from France with Marie Godet, his wife. They settled at Port Royal and died there.

From the marriage of the said Jean Trahan and Charlotte Comeau were born at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption:

The said Sylvestre Trahan, deponent, who married in 1747 Ursule Darois, born at Mines, Parish of Saint-Charles, in 1714 to Jérôme Darois who had married Marie Gareau at Port Royal and died at the Petitcodiac River of Beaubassin. The said Marie Gareau died in Virginia and was the daughter of Dominique Gareau who came from France and married at Port Royal Anne Gaudet. Both died at the said place.

From the marriage of Sylvestre Trahan and Ursule Darois, were born:

Joseph Trahan, born at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption, in October 1748.

Mathurin Trahan, born at the said place in May 1750.

Jean-Charles Trahan, at the same place in August 1752.

Simon Trahan, born at the said place in November 1754.

Romain Trahan, born at Liverpool in England, April 1756.

From the said marriage of Jean Trahan and Charlotte Comeau were also born at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption:

Blaise Trahan, in 1726, who married at Mines Magdelaine Boudrot, daughter of Joseph Boudrot and Anne LeBlanc, deported by the English to their colonies.

Marguerite Trahan, born at the said place and married to Germain Boudrot, son of François Boudrot and Angélique Babin. The said Marguerite Trahan died in England at Bristol in 1757 with all her children. Germain Boudrot is presently St. Malo.

Françoise Trahan, born at the said place in 1731, who died, unmarried, in Bristol.

Agnes Trahan, born at the said place in 1744, who married at Bristol Charles Boudrot, the son of François Boudrot and Angélique Babin. They are at St. Malo with their families.

Finally, the said Simon Trahan, deponent, of Arpens Triboutous, declared having been born at Pisiquid, parish of Assumption, in November 1740. He married at Morlaix, parish of St. Martin, on June 18, 1765. Catherine Josette Richard, born at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption, in 1747, to Pierre Richard and the late Josette LeBlanc. The said Pierre Richard lives in Kerbelec, parish of Palais, where his genealogy was taken down.

From this marriage was born at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, parish of Sauzon, Simon Pierre Trahan on June 8, 1766.

Such were the declarations of Sylvestre and Simon Trahan, who, having heard it read, declared it was true and that they could not sign. Concluded and done at Sauzon on March 12 of the said year, over the signature of Joseph Benoit, pastor of the parish and Father LeLoutre, missionary, and ours, clerk, and of the aforementioned witnesses. One word crossed out.

Simon Pierre Daire  
Joseph Babin

Armand Granger  
Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc  
Thebaud, clerk

J. M. LeLoutre, missionary

Jh. Benoit, pastor of Sauzon

*Family of Laurent Granger  
of Lanno, Parish of Sauzon*

On March 1, 1767, appeared Laurent Granger, sharecropper of Lanno, parish of Sauzon, who in the presence of Simon Pierre Daire, Joseph Babin, Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc and Louis Courtin, all Acadians living on this island, witnesses, and he declared he was born at Rivière aux Canards, parish of St.-Joseph, on January 1, 1741, son of René Granger and Angélique Comeau of Pisiquid, parish of St.-Charles. The said René Granger was the son of another René Granger, born at Port Royal and married to Marguerite Thériot. The said René Granger was the son of Laurent Granger from Plymouth, England, who married at Port Royal, after abjuration, Marie Landry. Both died at the said place. Angélique Comeau was born at Pisiquid to Etienne Comeau and Marie Forest, the said Etienne Comeau being the son of Jean Comeau and Françoise Hebert of Port Royal. Jean Comeau was the son of another Jean Comeau who had come from France with his wife and settled at Port Royal and died there.

From the marriage of René Granger and Angélique Comeau were born at Rivière aux Canards, parish of St.-Joseph:

Alexis Granger, in 1733, married at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption, to Marie Landry, daughter of Pierre Landry and Claire Babin, deported with their families to Philadelphia.

Blanche Granger, at the said place in 1735, married to Pierre Giroûard, son of Pierre of Giroûard and Marguerite Tourangeau of Port Royal, deported to New York.

Magdelaine Granger, same place, in 1739, unmarried, deported to Maryland.

Marguerite Granger, same place, in 1747, unmarried, presently at Morlaix.

The said Laurent Granger married at Falmouth in May 1762 Marie Theriot, born at Rivière aux Canards, parish of St. Joseph, on September 11, 1737, daughter of Jean Theriot of Rivière aux Canards, parish of St.-Joseph, and Marie Landry, born on June 17, 1714. The said Marie Theriot, wife of Laurent Granger, is the sister of Jean Theriot who lives at Cotremont (?), parish of Bangor, wher their genealogy was taken down. They have the same ancestors.

From the marriage of Laurent Granger and Marie Theriot was born at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, parish of Saint-Gerard in Palais:

Marguerite Granger, on February 26, 1766.

Such was the declaration of Laurent Granger which was read to him and he declared it true and signed with the signatures of Joseph Benoit, pastor of the parish, Jean-Marie Le-Loutre, missionary and ours, clerk, on March 12 of the said year. The word «Marie» was changed and «true» was added and approved.

Simon P. Daigre  
Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc

Louis Courtin  
Laurent Granger  
Thebaud, clerk

J. M. LeLoutre, missionary

Jh. Benoit, pastor of Sauzon

*Family of Pierre-Simon Daigre  
of Kervellant, Parish of Sauzon*

On March 1, 1767, appeared Pierre-Simon Daigre, of Kervellant, parish of Sauzon, who in the presence of Joseph Babin, Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, Louis Courtin, and Pierre Doucet, witnesses, all Acadians living on this island, declared he was born at Rivières-aux-Canards, parish of St.-Joseph, on August 15, 1730, to Olivier Daigre and Françoise Granger. Olivier Daigre was born at Port Royal in 1703 and died at Falmouth in 1756, on December 8. He was the son of another Olivier Daigre and Jeanne Blanchard, both of whom died at Port Royal. Olivier Daigre was the son of Jean Daigre, who came from France and married at Port Royal Marie Gaudet. Both died there. Françoise Granger was born at Port Royal in January 1701, daughter of René Granger and Marguerite Theriot.

The said René Granger died at Rivière aux Canards in November 1745. He was the son of Laurent Granger, from Plymouth, in England, and married, after abjuration, in Port Royal Marie Landry, at the said place. Both died there. Marguerite Theriot was born at Port Royal and died at Rivière-aux-Canards in 1740. She was the daughter of Bonaventure Theriot and Jeanne Boudrot, who died at Port Royal. The said Bonaventure Theriot had died at Mines, parish of St.-Charles.

The said genealogy was expanded to include more details about the family of Honoré, Olivier, and Paul Daigre, brothers of the deponent who lives at Chubigne, in the parish of Palais.

The said Simon Pierre Daigre married at Pellerisme (Penryn?), near Falmouth, England, after Easter of 1758, Marie-Magdelaine Theriot who was born at Rivière-aux-Canards, parish of St.-Joseph on November 12, 1738, daughter of the late Jean Theriot, who died at Falmouth on August 12, 1756, and Marie Landry who lives at Cortemont, parish of Bangor, where the genealogy was taken down in detail for her brothers, Jean Theriot, who has the same ancestor and who lives in Cordemont, parish of Bangor.

From the marriage of Simon-Pierre Daigre and Marie-Magdelaine Theriot were born:  
Marie-Marguerite Daigre, in Falmouth, on October 20, 1759.

Anne Geneviève Gertrude Daigre, same place, on July 26, 1761.

Edouard Daigre, at Morlaix, parish of St. Matthew, bishopric of Fregnier, on January 31, 1764.

Simon Pierre Daigre, at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, at Sauzon, parish of St.-Nicolas, on June 28, 1765.

Such was the declaration of Pierre-Simon Daigre, which was read to him and he declared it true and signed it with the witnesses aforesaid at the said Sauzon, over the signature of Joseph Benoit, pastor of Sauzon, Jean-Louis LeLoutre, missionary and ours, clerk, on March 12 of the said year.

Simon P. Daigre

Louis Courtin

Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc

Joseph Babin

Pierre Doucet

J. L. LeLoutre, missionary

Thebaud, clerk

Jh. Benoit, pastor of Sauzon

*Family of Jean-Charles Daigre  
of Kersa, Parish of Sauzon*

On March 2, 1767, appeared Jean-Charles Daigre of Kersa, parish of Sauzon, who, in the presence of Joseph Babin, Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, Louis Courtin, and Pierre Doucet, witnesses, all Acadians living on this island, declared he was born at Rivière aux Canards, parish of St.-Joseph, on April 15, 1740, brother of Simon Pierre Daigre, with the same ancestors. He married at Falmouth, on February 2, 1760, Marie-Josèphe Theriot, born at Rivière-aux-Canards on April 10, 1743, sister of Marie-Magdelaine Theriot, wife of Simon Pierre Daigre and having the same ancestors.

From the marriage of the said Jean-Charles Daigre and Marie-Joseph Theriot were born:

Charles Augustin Benoit Daigre, At Falmouth, on January 21, 1761.

Mathurin Daigre, same place, January 9, 1763.

Constance Daigre, at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, parish of Sauzon, on April 21, 1766.

Such was the declaration of Jean-Charles Daigre, which was read to him and he declared it true and signed with the aforesaid witnesses. Done at Sauzon over the signatures of Joseph Benoit, pastor of the said parish and Jean-Louis LeLoutre, missionary, and ours, clerk, on March 12 of the said year. (The word «February» is scratched out.)

Joseph Babin

Louis Courtin

Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc

Pierre Doucet

Jean-Charles Daigre

J. L. LeLoutre, missionary

Thebaud, clerk

Jh. Benoit, pastor of Sauzon

*Family of Felix Boudrot  
Who lives at Kersa, Parish of Sauzon*

On March 2, 1767, appeared Felix Boudrot, of Kersa, parish of Sauzon, who declared before Joseph Babin, Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, Louis Courtin, and Pierre Doucet, witnesses, all Acadians living on this island, that he was born at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption,

in 1742, the son of Jean Boudrot and Marguerite Comeau. Jean Boudrot was the son of Denis Boudrot and Agnes Vincent of Rivière-aux-Canards. Denis Boudrot was the son of Charles Boudrot and Marie Corporon. The said Charles Boudrot was the son of Michel Boudrot who came from France with Michelle Aucoin, his wife. They settled at Port Royal and died there. Marguerite Comeau was born at Port Royal, to Augustin Comeau and Jeanne Perron. Augustin Comeau was the son of Jean Comeau and Françoise Hebert of Port Royal, the said Jean Comeau being the son of Xatrège (?) Comeau, who came from France with his wife. They settled at Port Royal and died there.

From the marriage of Jean Boudrot and Marguerite Comeau married at Port Royal in 1734 were born at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption:

Rosalie Boudrot, in 1736.

Jean Boudrot, in 1738.

Bruneau Boudrot, in 1743.

Joseph Boudrot, in 1745.

Elizabeth Boudrot, in 1747.

Jean Boudrot drowned in the Pisiquid River in 1747. Marguerite Comeau was deported by the English to Boston with her children. Rosalie, Jean, Bruneau, Joseph, and Elizabeth Boudrot. The said Felix Boudrot was deported by the English to Falmouth and married at Morlaix, parish of St.-Martin, bishopric of St.-Paul de Leon, on June 23, 1764, Anne-Gertrude Theriot, who was born at the Rivière-aux-Canards on October 14, 1745. She is the sister of Marie-Magdelaine Theriot, wife of Simon-Pierre Daigne and of Marie-Josèphe Theriot, wife of Jean-Charles Daigne, having the same ancestors.

From the marriage of Felix Boudrot with Anne-Gertrude Theriot was born at Morlaix, parish of Saint-Melanie, bishopric of Frignier, on May 18, 1765, Simon Bruneau Boudrot.

Such was the declaration of Felix Boudrot which was read to him, and he declared it true, and he signed it with the aforesaid witnesses. Done and concluded at Sauzon on March 12, 1767, over the signatures of Father Joseph Benoit, pastor of Sauzon, Father Jean Louis LeLoutre, missionary, and ours, clerk.

(Three words were crossed out.)

Louis Courtin  
Felix Boudreau

Pierre Doucet  
Joseph Babin  
Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc  
Thebaud, clerk

J. L. LeLoutre, missionary

Jh. Benoit, pastor of Sauzon

CENSUS OF THE WHITE POPULATION  
OF OPELOUSAS

T. D. COOK, ENUMERATOR

Householder	Age	Relationship to Householder	Occupation (Compiled By Margaret Ann Conrad)	Person's place of Birth	Father's place of Birth	Mother's place of Birth
Ealer, Charles N	58		Witchmaker	Penn.	Penn.	Penn.
Helen	52	Wife	Housekpr.	S. C.	N. C.	N. C.
Effie	32	Daughter	At Home	La.	Penn.	S. C.
Perkins, Helen	34	Niece	Teacher	La.	Ala.	S. C.
Porter, Rebecca	44		Housekpr.	La.	S. C.	Md.
Ginnie E.	15	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Maxim	11	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	La.
Buller, Elizabeth M.	53		Housekpr.	Ala.	S. C.	S. C.
Rawler, Clara	25	Daughter	At Home	La.	Ark.	Ala.
McBride, Mason	5	Grandchild	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Medicies, Martin	35		Brick Mason	La.	France	La.
Adelia	23	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Martha	5	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Victoria	4	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Rta	6m	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Boutte, F. M.	58		Carpenter	La.	La.	La.
Susan E.	36	Wife	Housekpr.	Ala.	Ala.	Ala.
Cary, Albert	8	Nephew	At School	Ala.	Ala.	Ala.
Hollier, Olympe	38		Seamstress	La.	La.	La.
Felicia	17	Daughter	Seamstress	La.	La.	La.
Armatine	12	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	La.
Violeh, Atlale	43		Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Wartelle, Harry	24	Son	Farmer	La.	La.	La.
Dora	21	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Elouise	9	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	La.
Charles	4	Son		La.	La.	La.
Ross, Camille	26		Retail Grocer	Strasbourg	Strasbourg	Strasbourg
Blanche L.	26	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	France	La.
Armand	8	Son	At School	La.	Strasbourg	La.
Hortense	10m	Daughter		La.	Strasbourg	La.
Posey, Wm. O.	31		Druggist	La.	La.	La.
Hester	34	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Md.	La.
Henry G.	8	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.

John J.	6	Son		La.	La.
May	5	Daughter		La.	La.
Susan	4	Daughter		La.	La.
William O.	3	Son		La.	La.
Louise	1	Daughter		La.	La.
Appolina, Maggie	13	Servant	Maid of all Work	La.	La.
Mungesleimer, Frederick	52		Baker	Baden	Baden
Sarah	42	Wife	Housekpr.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Gustave	20	Son	Retail Merchant	La.	Baden
Emma	17	Daughter	At Home	La.	Baden
Marcus	16	Son	Baker	La.	Baden
Isadore	15	Son	Apprentice Baker	La.	Baden
Lewis	13	Son	At Home	La.	Baden
Alexander	12	Son	At School	La.	Baden
Sidonia	10	Daughter	At School	La.	Baden
Adolph	8	Son	At School	La.	Baden
Hardy	6	Son	At Home	La.	Baden
Lawrence	5	Son	At Home	La.	Baden
Floretta	2	Daughter		La.	Baden
Kaufman, Francis	21	Daughter		La.	Baden
Albert	3	Grandchild	Clerk	La.	Baden
Gustave	2	Grandchild		La.	Alsace
Dantin G.	38		Tailor	La.	Alsace
Catherine	35	Wife	Housekpr.	France	France
Leontine	11	Daughter	At School	France	France
Julia	9	Daughter	At School	La.	France
Victor	7	Son	At School	La.	France
Eugenie	5	Daughter	At Home	La.	France
Emilo	3	Son		La.	France
Dolphy, Micheal	18		Clerk	La.	France
Roos, Jack	24			West Indies	West Indies
Klots, Leon	21		Clerk	Alsace	Alsace
Thompson, Walter H.	23		Clerk	La.	Alsace
			Apprentice Carpenter	La.	Mo.

Householder	Age	Relationship to Householder	Occupation	Person's place of Birth	Father's place of Birth	Mother's place of Birth
Jacobs, Solomon	40		Retail Merchant	Prussia	Prussia	Prussia
Rosa	35		Housekpr.	Austria	Austria	Austria
Zetta	13	Daughter	At School	La.	Prussia	Austria
Jonas	11	Son	At School	La.	Prussia	Austria
Fannie	9	Daughter	At School	La.	Prussia	Austria
Aaron	7	Son	At School	La.	Prussia	Austria
Adolph	5	Son	At Home	La.	Prussia	Austria
David	3	Son	At Home	La.	Prussia	Austria
Leon	1	Son	At Home	La.	Prussia	Austria
Wolff	21	Brother	Clerk	Prussia	Prussia	Prussia
Beauchamp, Edward	22		Stage driver	La.	Ky.	La.
Lightly, William	32		Tinner	La.	England	England
Rose	26	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	France	La.
Lacade, Henry D.	22	Brother in law	Tinner	La.	France	La.
Pulford, George	52		Saddler	England	England	England
Eve	40	Wife	Housekpr.	Bavaria	Bavaria	Bavaria
George C.	22	Son	Saddler	La.	England	Bavaria
Frank J.	14	Son	At School	La.	England	Bavaria
Minnie	12	Daughter	At School	La.	England	Bavaria
Nettie	8	Daughter	At School	La.	England	Bavaria
F. T. Nicholls	4	Son	At Home	La.	England	Bavaria
Asa	11m	Daughter		La.	England	Bavaria
Leas, John	17	Nephew	Apprentice Saddler	La.	Germany	Bavaria
Colin, John	45		Shoemaker	France	France	France
Rosalie	46	Wife	Housekpr.	France	France	France
Marie	9	Daughter	At School	La.	France	France
Morntinveg, Christian	66		Tailor	Wurtenbourg	Wurtenbourg	Wurtenbourg
Julia	62	Wife	Housekpr.	France	France	France
DeJean M. Arthur	45		Sewing Machine Agent	La.	La.	La.
Irene	18	Wife	Clerk	La.	La.	La.
Mortinveg, Remi	28		Watchmaker	La.	Wurtenbourg	France
Tarsh	22	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Penn.	La.
Lorenzo	2	Son		La.	La.	La.

(To be continued)



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Wilkins

(Revised)

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5.

4

3

2

Francis B. Williamson

A

Fannie B. Maclin

A

William T. Williamson

B

John Riley

B

Lena R. Harris

C

Addie W. Maclin

C

Robert Quitman Riley

D

Mary Wilkins Burnley

C

Isogrine Wilkins

James F. Maclin

Mary Ann Wilkins

Hardin Burnley

John Henry Wilkins

Richard Wilkins

Matilda Meade

Margaret Minge

Joseph Wilkins

Elizabeth Jones

John Douglas Wilkins

Maria Cole Claiborne

(2) Maria Noland

Julia Malone Wyche

D

Arthur Phelan

E

James Wright Wyche

E

Lucy Malone Harrison

F

James Wright Wyche, Jr.

G

Arleen Louise Snyder

C

Mary Robinson Peebles

D

John Fletcher Wyche

E

Henry W. Peebles

F

Dudley Peebles

G

Sterling Peebles

H

Ann Peebles

I

Jack Peebles

J

Ann Wilkins Cooke

M

Henry Wyche Peebles

N

Tabitha Ann Wilkins

J.W. Cooke

Elizabeth Wilkins

James Purnell

Same as 6 D E F G

Same as 5-F, G

Dr. James Sterling Peebles

L

Mary Frances Smith

M

Joseph D. Peebles

O

Martha Barrett

P

Martha Wilkins

James Sterling Peebles

Same as 4 D, E, F, G, I, J, K

N

Henry Wyche Peebles

O

Ann Wilkins Cooke

R

Jane Wilkins

S

Richard Williams

T

Edmond Wilkins

U

Matilda P. Brander

V

Camilla Price

W

Douglas Wilkins

X

Benjamin Wilkins

(1) Jane Taylor

Annie Carter

G

Cyrus Tribodeaux

H

Sarah (Sadie) Nettlett

O

Robert Donlon

I

Marjorie Griffin

J

Francis F. Carter

P

Benjamin J. Donlon

Q

Ann Wilkins

Y

H.M. Nettlett

Z

Overton Perry Wilkins

R

Eleanor Boagni

S

John Felix Denauche III

T

John Felix Denauche II

U

Justine Boagni

V

Roberta Hart Wilkins

T

John Felix Denauche

U

Robert Wilkins

A

Ida Blanche McNulty

B

(2) Sarah Overton

A Douglas Wilkins

B Tabitha Ann Wyche

C

D

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T

Dr. R. Robert Bourne, Jr.

Anne Riley

# Virginians In The Teche Country

by

Glenn R. Conrad

(Continued from Vol. XVII, No. 1)

## PART II

### JOHN D. WILKINS: His Ideas and His Family

There is very little information about the day-to-day activities of the Wilkinses in Louisiana. What is known about them comes from scattered sources, civil and church records, or an occasional newspaper or magazine item. These give, however, some insight to the character and philosophy of John D. Wilkins. Dr. Duperier, for example, recounts the story of how, upon reaching Col. Olivier's plantation en route to his own, Wilkins was warned to keep a close watch on a neighbor who had a reputation for stealing livestock. Without hesitation, the Virginian, a few days later, confronted the neighbor and told him that whenever he had need of meat for his large family he could take what he needed, so long as he notified Wilkins of his intention to do so. He must not, however, steal the animals. Some time later, in the dead of night, Wilkins and his body servant were awakened by noise in the hog pens. With guns in hand they moved quietly out of the house to the pens and there came upon the neighbor in the act of stealing a hog. Wilkins seized and bound the man and awaited daylight to take his prisoner to Franklin, where he was subsequently jailed. Because of Wilkins' sense of justice and charity, he supported the man's family during his imprisonment.<sup>1</sup>

On a more serious side, Dr. Duperier, in his "Narrative," recalled that John D. Wilkins was "a man of deep thought and a natural philosopher." At some time, probably after his move to Louisiana, Wilkins became quite interested in the writings of Charles Fourier, the French utopian socialist. When, in 1843, Fourier's followers in the United States began publication of a newspaper, *The Phalanx*, Wilkins became a staunch supporter of their goals.<sup>2</sup>

Then, on January 5, 1844, the editors of the *Phalanx* announced that "through the liberality of a gentleman in Louisiana . . . we are enabled to send the *Phalanx* [*sic*] to the Senior Class of every College and University in the United States."<sup>3</sup> A few years later, in

1. *New Iberia Enterprise*, March 25, 1899.

2. Among the purposes of *The Phalanx*, as set out in the first number (October 5, 1843), was to "explain the system of universal Association or principles of a New Organization of Society, discovered by Charles Fourier"; and to "expose [the] evils and defects of . . . leading social institutions." *The Phalanx* was succeeded by *The Harbinger*.

3. In a footnote, the editor identified the "gentleman in Louisiana" as being John D. Wilkins. He also noted that as a result of Wilkins' contribution the *Phalanx* was being sent to 103 colleges and universities. *The Phalanx*, January 5, 1844. The editor, Osborne McDaniel, was apparently so taken with Wilkins' support and generosity, that he visited the planter in his South Louisiana home. For a public address given by McDaniel while in Franklin, La., see the *Franklin Planters' Banner*, May 6, 1847.

February 1847, the editors acknowledged receipt of a \$1,000 donation from Wilkins "to be expended either in propagating the theory or the practice of the Association."<sup>4</sup>

Wilkins' interest in utopian socialism was accompanied by a devotion to agricultural reform, in particular, and to "natural philosophy," in general. There would appear to have occurred within the man a strange marriage of neo-classical and romantic intellectual currents. He obviously recognized a certain compatibility in the theories of Fourier and the theories and practices of John Taylor of Caroline.<sup>5</sup> Wilkins sought the "natural" solution to the problems of humanity and argued that mankind must live in harmony with nature. In 1843, the same year that he began financial contributions to the Fourierist movement, Wilkins published *Man's Artificial Institutions of Agriculture, Tested by God's Natural Institutions of Agriculture*.<sup>6</sup> As Professor Carl Guarneri has noted, the book is devoted to "practical suggestions for a more intensive and less wasteful destructive agriculture, based on the 'natural truth' of observation."<sup>6</sup> Wilkins recommended "such things as plenty of manure, deep ploughing, confined grazing, [and] live fences."<sup>7</sup>

The Louisiana planter also published a thirty-page pamphlet entitled *Practical Education, Morals, and Legislation, Tested by "Natural Truth."*<sup>8</sup> From every indication, ambiguous as some may be, Wilkins put into practice much of what he recommended in print. This may account for the fact that he was at least six years in preparing his farmland to receive its first crop of sugarcane.<sup>9</sup>

Like Taylor in Virginia, Wilkins projected his ideas of reform into the local political arena. As Dr. Duperier indicated, Wilkins ran for governor of Louisiana in 1849 "on what he called a triangular platform. His address to the people was full of reform suggestions.

#### 4. *The Harbinger*, February 6, 1847.

One can be certain that there were few utopian socialists in Louisiana, particularly among the planter class. In an article entitled "Two Utopian Socialist Plans for Emancipation in Antebellum Louisiana," to be published in a forthcoming number of *Louisiana History*, Professor Carl J. Guarneri discusses, in some detail, Wilkins' attachment to the Fourierist movement.

5. John Taylor of Caroline (1753-1824) was a Virginian, a Revolutionary War veteran, a state legislator, and a United States senator. It was, however, his agricultural and political publications which brought him considerable fame. In 1813 he published what is perhaps his most famous agricultural work, *Arator*. In this, he set out the results of his practical experiments and lauded the virtues of an agrarian society. For a brief biographical sketch of Taylor, see D. Harland Hagler, "John Taylor," in *The Encyclopedia of Southern History*, eds. David C. Roller and Robert W. Twyman (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1979), p. 1181.

6. Wilkins' ideas concerning conservation may have been born of his experiences on the burned-out farmland of southeastern Virginia.

7. Carl Guarneri to Glenn Conrad, March 12, 1982. I am especially grateful for Professor Guarneri's kindness in sharing with me that portion of his research dealing with John D. Wilkins. Guarneri located a copy of Wilkins' book at the New York Public Library; however, the book does not circulate.

8. *Ibid.* A copy of this book is on deposit in the rare-book collection of the library of the College of William and Mary.

9. Wilkins' "natural" approach to agriculture may have also been responsible for his move to Louisiana where he could test his theories in virgin soil.

He pledged the salary of the office, if elected, to charitable objects."<sup>10</sup> The *Boston Daily Chronotype* described Wilkins' campaign for governor.<sup>11</sup>

On the domestic scene, the three decades spent by the Wilkins family in Louisiana were filled with the joys and sorrows of every family as it plays out its destiny. The first of the children to marry was Mary Ann. She married Hardin Burnley of Virginia. This happy event soon turned to tragedy, however, when Mary Ann died unexpectedly, probably as the result of the birth of her daughter, Mary Wilkins Burnley.<sup>12</sup>

If the loss of a daughter was not tragedy enough for John Wilkins, his grief was compounded when, on September 15, 1832, Maria Claiborne, his companion in the Louisiana adventure, died.<sup>13</sup> No information has been forthcoming about the circumstances of Mrs. Wilkins' death. Four years later John D. Wilkins settled his first wife's estate. It is from this document that there is derived some information concerning the family. The estate was being settled at this particular time because Wilkins was preparing to mortgage 1,000 acres of land to the Citizens Bank of New Orleans. Before that was possible, however, he had to establish the rights of his wife's heirs to the community property.

Wilkins declared that the value of the community property on the day of his wife's death amounted to \$14,747. He noted, however, that 2,585 acres of the plantation were bought with funds belonging exclusively to him. Despite this, at the time of his wife's death,

10. *New Iberia Enterprise*, March 25, 1899.

11. *Boston Daily Chronotype*, as cited in Guarneri to Conrad, March 12, 1982.

12. Hardin Burnley was probably a native of Hanover County, Va. He and Mary Ann Wilkins may have been married before the Wilkins left Virginia in 1829; however, there is no Burnley-Wilkins marriage record in either Brunswick or Greenville counties. The records of Hanover County for this era were destroyed during the Civil War. Clerk of Court of Hanover County, Va., to Glenn R. Conrad (telephone conversation), September 22, 1981. There is no record of their marriage in St. Mary Parish, La.

Through deduction from extant records, it is possible to conclude that Mary Wilkins Burnley was born in 1831 or in the spring or summer of 1832, but before September of that year. Records indicate that Mary Ann Burnley was already deceased when her mother, Maria Claiborne Wilkins died on September 15, 1832. When John D. Wilkins died in February, 1852, Mary Wilkins Burnley was still a minor. Therefore, her birth date had to be in 1831 or the spring or summer of 1832. The deduction is drawn from information provided in St. Mary Original Estates 331 and 761.

For more on the Burnley branch of the Wilkins family, see the segment of this article entitled "The Heirs of John D. Wilkins."

13. Author's note. Following the publication of the first segment of this article in the *Attakapas Gazette*, XVII (Spring, 1982), genealogical information concerning Maria Cole Claiborne has become available.

Maria Cole Claiborne was the daughter of John Herbert Claiborne and Mary Cole Gregory. Maria's paternal grandfather was Augustine Claiborne, the great-grandson of William Claiborne who arrived in Virginia in 1621.

Augustine's brother, Nathaniel, was the grandfather of William C. C. Claiborne, Louisiana's first American governor. Thus, Maria Claiborne Wilkins and Governor Claiborne were third cousins.

For more on the Claiborne family genealogy, see G. M. Claiborne, comp., *Claiborne Pedigree, A Genealogical Table of the Descendants of Secretary William Claiborne* (Lynchburg, Va., 1900); and Nathaniel Claiborne Hale, *Roots in Virginia: An Account of Captain Thomas Hale, Virginia Frontiersman . . .* (Philadelphia, 1948).

The author is grateful to Mrs. Robert Bourne, Jr., of Camden, Tenn., for supplying the Claiborne genealogy. Mrs. Bourne is a descendant of John D. and Maria Claiborne Wilkins.

the community had outstanding debts of \$14,000—debts incurred bringing the plantation into production. Wilkins stated furthermore that following his wife's death, he was forced to sell some of his personally owned slaves for an additional \$5,500 to invest in the plantation. Thus, by 1836, his wife's succession and he had incurred a total debt of \$19,500 in the establishment of the plantation. Since he was responsible for the payment of this debt, he concluded that he owed nothing to his wife's heirs from her half of the community property.<sup>14</sup>

Imogene Wilkins, probably the eldest Wilkins child, married James Frederick Maclin, a dentist, then residing in Vicksburg, Mississippi. They were married at the bride's home in St. Mary Parish on January 2, 1837.<sup>15</sup>

Maclin, born December 7, 1807, was a native of Mecklenburg County, Va., and a descendant of Brunswick County pioneers. His grandfather, Frederick Maclin, served as an officer during the Revolutionary War.<sup>16</sup> After taking a degree in dentistry, John Frederick Maclin emigrated to Vicksburg in 1834. He became prominent in local circles and active in politics. In 1835 he served as secretary of a mass meeting in New Orleans supporting Texas independence. He also served as a councilman in Vicksburg. In March, 1843, Maclin, Jefferson Davis, and other residents of Vicksburg formed the Vicksburg Jockey Club.<sup>17</sup>

In May, 1844, two men in Vicksburg fought a duel as a result of a political argument. One of the duelists, James Downs, a close friend of Maclin, was wounded in the affair. When the editor of the Vicksburg *Sentinel*, Walter Hickey, printed certain statements concerning Downs which Maclin considered insulting, Maclin accosted Hickey, demanding an explanation. The two men proceeded to argue and moved into an alley where Maclin seized Hickey and began shaking him. With that, Hickey drew a revolver and fired twice, mortally wounding Maclin who died May 8, 1844.<sup>18</sup>

14. This matter is recorded in St. Mary Parish Original Estate 331. The reason for the instrument appears to be that Wilkins had to establish the rights of the heirs, particularly those of the minor child, Mary Wilkins Burnley, before he could mortgage a portion of his land.

With particular regard to the rights of the Burnley minor, Wilkins noted that at the time of his daughter's marriage to Hardin Burnley, he had given the couple seven of his personally owned slaves as a wedding present. The slaves were then valued at \$4,000. *Ibid.*

15. Mrs. Robert Bourne, in a genealogy of the Maclin family, gives Imogene's birth as occurring in 1803. The Maclin-Wilkins marriage is recorded in St. Mary Parish Marriage Book 2, p. 401.

16. Bourne genealogy of Maclin family.

17. A biographical sketch of James Frederick Maclin is provided in Jefferson Davis, *The Papers of Jefferson Davis* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1971 - ), vol. 2, June 1841-July 1846, ed. James T. McIntosh (1974), 25.

A brief history and genealogy of the Maclin family in America can be found in Tabernacle Historical Committee, comp., *The Taylors of Tabernacle . . .* (Brownsville, Tenn.: Tabernacle Historical Committee, 1957), pp. 27-30.

18. Accounts of the Maclin-Hickey encounter and Maclin's subsequent death are found in the Vicksburg *Tri-Weekly Whig*, May 9, 1844; Vicksburg *Sentinel*, May 10, 1844; Vicksburg *Weekly Whig*, May 13, 1844; Vicksburg *Sentinel and Expositor*, May 14, 1844; New Orleans *Daily Picayune*, May 8, 9, 1844; and Baton Rouge *Gazette*, May 11, 1844.

There is some confusion about the actual date of Maclin's death, but it would appear that he died on May 8, 1844.

Editor Hickey was charged with manslaughter but was acquitted. He pleaded self defense. *Papers of Jefferson Davis*, II, 25.



The Maclins had three children: Robert Riddle (born January 1838), John Wilkins (born September 3, 1839), and Ann Matilda Maclin (born June 6, 1841).<sup>19</sup> Of these offspring, only John was living at the time of his father's death.<sup>20</sup>

Imogene Maclin survived her husband by only a few months. She became emotionally overwrought by his unexpected death and succumbed, on September 24, 1844, to an illness that "was much more of a mental nature than bodily."<sup>21</sup> The orphaned son, John Wilkins Maclin, was reared, at his mother's request, by his uncle, William Maclin of Browns-



MARY JONES BROADNAX  
1838 - 1918

Daughter of Richard Thomas Broadnax and Frances Margaret Feild.  
Wife of John Wilkins Maclin.



JOHN WILKINS MACLIN  
1839 - 1896

Son of Imogene Wilkins and James Frederick Maclin.

19. Fort Assumption Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, comp., *Mid-South Bible Records* (Memphis, 1973), p. 247.

20. It is interesting to note, however, that when Ann Matilda was christened in Christ Church (Episcopal) in Vicksburg on May 15, 1842, her cousin, Mary Wilkins Burnley, then 10 or 11 years old, was also christened. Her sponsors were James and Imogene Maclin. The question arises, was Mary Burnley living with her aunt at this time or was she only visiting?

Imogene Wilkins Maclin was baptized in Christ Church on April 22, 1844, a few days before her husband's death. Copies of church records concerning the Maclins have been graciously provided by Mrs. Robert Bourne.

21. Family tradition holds that Imogene Maclin was pregnant at the time of her husband's death and this condition, complicated by severe emotional stress, may have contributed to her untimely death. Mrs. Robert Bourne, Jr., to Glenn Conrad (telephone conversation), March 23, 1982.

Mrs. Maclin's emotional state is described in a letter from John K. to Col. William Maclin, September 24, 1844 (copy in possession of Mrs. Robert Bourne). John K. reported that Imogene Maclin died at 6:00 p.m., September 24, 1844.

ville, Tennessee.<sup>22</sup> When, in 1852, John D. Wilkins, the boy's grandfather, died, young Maclin inherited a considerable amount of money. Part of this was apparently used to send him to the University of North Carolina. Maclin remained at the university only one year before returning to Tennessee. He thereupon acquired a plantation and married Mary Jones Broadnax, of Fayette County, Tenn., in June 1861. The couple had eight daughters.<sup>23</sup> Only two of these daughters married. See the Wilkins Family Chart (revised), 6 A, B, and C.

On December 31, 1839, John D. Wilkins remarried. His second wife was Maria Nolan (sometimes spelled Noland), a resident of New Iberia, but a native of Ireland. They were married by Father Beaupre of St. Peter's Church. The ceremony probably took place at the home of Mrs. David Weeks. Witnesses were A. T. Conrad, John Dow, F. M. Weeks, ———— Peebles, Douglass Wilkins, John Henry Wilkins, James S. Peebles, and A. S. Magill. The wedding document was signed by John Moore and Leonard J. Smith.<sup>24</sup>

Of the Wilkins offspring, it is Richard Augustin who is best documented in official records and elsewhere. Although John Wilkins at one time noted that he had spent considerable sums of money on his children's educations,<sup>25</sup> other evidence points to the fact that Richard did not receive a college education. In a letter written in 1859 to his nephew, John Maclin, Richard urged the young man to return to his studies (he had recently left the University of North Carolina), either at the University of Virginia or at Yale. Richard added,

You will find that in time to come you may find it convenient to have a profession to fall back on instead of having to oversee for a living. I speak my son from experience. I have seen the time that I would have given a great deal to have been an accomplished professional either in medicine, law, or civil engineering surveying. . . .<sup>26</sup>

22. *Ibid.*

23. Maclin enrolled at the University of North Carolina for the 1858-59 academic year. Upon leaving the university at the end of his first year, young Maclin received a letter from his uncle Richard Wilkins. Wilkins urged the young man to return to college and secure a professional degree, even if he did intend to pursue a career of farming. Maclin's paternal uncle, William Maclin, also urged him to return to higher education. R. A. Wilkins to John Wilkins Maclin, August 10, 1859, in the Maclin family papers in the possession of Mrs. Robert Bourne, Jr.

24. Maria Nolan, at 36, was thirteen years younger than her husband. She was the daughter of Edward Nolan and Fannie Frances Griffith of Ireland. She had immigrated to the United States in 1826 under unknown circumstances. There is nothing to indicate what might have brought her to New Iberia. The marriage record is found in St. Peter's Catholic Parish, Marriage Book I, 15. Background on Maria Nolan is found in St. Mary Parish Probate Book, 1852, p. 232.

25. St. Mary Parish Original Suit No. 4098.

26. Richard A. Wilkins to John W. Maclin, August 10, 1859, Maclin family papers.

Regardless of his educational background, Richard returned to Virginia in 1836. An entry in the Brunswick County Register of Marriages simply states that on September 28, "Richard A. Wilkins of Louisiana married Matilda F. Meade."<sup>27</sup>

For the next ten years there is no known record of Richard in Greenville or Brunswick counties, Virginia, or in St. Mary or St. Martin parishes, Louisiana. It is therefore impossible to record whether he returned to Louisiana with his bride or resided elsewhere. There is no record of what became of his first wife.<sup>28</sup>

In November, 1846, Richard, probably anticipating remarriage entered into a three-year planting partnership with his father.<sup>29</sup> That done, he returned to Virginia and on January 18, 1847, married Margaret Adams Minge in Richmond. She was the daughter of John Minge, Jr., and Mary Griffin Adams of Charles City County, Virginia.<sup>30</sup>

Richard and Margaret Wilkins returned to Louisiana in the spring of 1847 and established their home on the Wilkins plantation.<sup>31</sup> The couple would eventually have ten children, eight of whom were born in St. Mary Parish.<sup>32</sup>

27. Unfortunately, the actual bonds of matrimony are no longer present in Brunswick County; therefore, no additional information about the bride or her family has been found. The probate of Maria Claiborne Wilkins' estate by John D. Wilkins in August 1836, may have been motivated in part by Richard's anticipated marriage.

28. There is no death or divorce record for Matilda Wilkins in either St. Mary or St. Martin parishes. Similarly, there is no death or succession record for Matilda Wilkins in Brunswick County, Va.

Although there is no clear indication of Richard's whereabouts between 1836 and 1846, it is interesting to note that in his 1859 letter to John Maclin (see above), Richard stated that he had promised Maclin's parents on their death beds that he would see to it that their son received a first-rate education. Since both James Frederick Maclin and his wife died in 1844, Richard's statement would suggest that he was in Vicksburg at that time.

29. See St. Mary Parish Original Suit No. 4242.

30. *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st ser., XXI (1912), 31.

John Minge Jr., and Mary Griffin Adams had also married in Richmond, on March 9, 1820. Their daughter Margaret was born August 20, 1824, and was therefore slightly more than nine years younger than her husband.

Margaret Adams Minge was descended from an outstanding American family. Her paternal grandmother was Sarah Harrison (the wife of John Minge, Sr.). Sarah was the youngest daughter of Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and the sister of William Henry Harrison, a president of the United States. John Minge, Sr., and his wife are buried at Brandon, on the James River. *Ibid.*

Margaret Minge's father and mother died at Hillmans, Charles City County, Va., and are buried there. *Ibid.*

Although the information provided in the *William and Mary Quarterly* states that Richard Wilkins and Margaret Minge were married in Richmond in January 1847, their son, Benjamin Harrison Wilkins, Sr., wrote in *War Boy* that his mother and father were married in Petersburg, Va., in 1846.

31. In June, 1847, Richard purchased a section of public land in the Isle aux Cannes area of St. Mary Parish. Since the entire section was apparently cypress swamp, he must have purchased it for wood to use in building and for a sugar-making operation. For the purchase, see U. S. Tract Book 10, p. 146. The section purchased is Section 52.

32. The ten children (with their birth year in parenthesis) were John Douglass (1848), Richard Augustin (1849), Minge (1850), Sally Harrison (1852), Herbert Claiborne (1854), Benjamin Harrison (1856), George Adams (1858), Harry Voorhees (1860), Mary Griffin (1862), and Joseph Gregory (1863). *Ibid.*

Unfortunately for all concerned, the next few years were not happy ones for the Wilkins family. Apparently the partnership agreement worked out between father and son did not go well from the start. From several legal documents concerning their growing dispute, it is possible to piece together the following facts.

The dispute seems to have centered around Richard's operation of the plantation during the years 1847 and 1848. According to the terms of the partnership, Richard was to have general supervision of planting, harvesting, and selling the sugar crop. In return for use of his father's lands, slaves, animals, and implements, Richard would give his father a percentage of the net income. Under this arrangement Richard then operated the plantation in 1847 and 1848; however, according to a later statement by John D. Wilkins, at the end of the crop year 1848 Richard had not yet given him any part of the net income for 1847 or 1848.<sup>33</sup>

Richard denied this allegation and stated that he and his father had repeatedly argued heatedly about the plantation's income for those years. Then, on November 28, 1848, the dispute reached such a degree of intensity that Richard and his family were "forcibly and by threats . . . compelled to quit the plantation."<sup>34</sup>

It would appear, however, that the dispute between John Wilkins and his son moderated sufficiently for Richard and family to return to the Wilkins plantation for the crop year 1849.<sup>35</sup> Further evidence that Richard returned to his father's plantation is found in a deposition of John Wilkins to the effect that Richard remained there until the beginning of 1850.<sup>36</sup>

The final rift between the two came late in 1849 when Richard and his brother, John Henry, Hardin Burnley, and W. B. Maclin brought suit against John D. Wilkins to settle with the heirs of Maria Claiborne Wilkins her share of the community property at the time of her death.<sup>37</sup> It would appear that the plaintiffs were well aware of Wilkins' action in 1836

33. John Wilkins' statement concerning this matter is found in St. Mary Parish Original Suit No. 4242.

34. Richard Wilkins' statement concerning the dispute with his father is found in *ibid*.

35. The fact that Richard was on his father's plantation and in his house is revealed in a rather unusual way—a suit brought against Richard by David Oliphant of Hinds County, Mississippi.

Oliphant stated that he arrived at John Wilkins' home on August 22, 1849, for a friendly visit. The following day Richard allegedly called on Oliphant and asked him to join him outside. Once outside, "without cause or provocation," Richard assaulted Oliphant with an umbrella and his fists, "striking a great many blows on head and shoulders." Oliphant asked the court to award him \$1,500 in damages. Oddly enough, sometime thereafter, the plaintiff's attorney asked the court to dismiss the case at plaintiff's costs. See St. Mary Parish Original Suit No. 4061.

36. St. Mary Parish Original Suit No. 4098.

37. It will be remembered that Richard's and John's planting partnership was to run for three crop years, 1847, 1848, and 1849. It is known from subsequent testimony that John claimed to have received no part of the net profits for 1847 and 1848. One wonders if, after heated argument in November, 1848, between father and son, John D. Wilkins did not take over operation of the plantation for the crop year 1849 and, at its conclusion, refuse to share the net proceeds (or any part of the net proceeds) with Richard.

which had set out clearly what property belonged to the community existing between himself and his first wife and what property belonged to him personally. There was, however, a question in their minds (or perhaps only in Richard's as things turned out) concerning community ownership of the vast estate that John Wilkins had acquired. This point is evident early in the plaintiff's petition to the court:

... on the 23rd day of November 1829, Wilkins with his wife and your petitioners and the slaves came to this state and settling on and improving said tracts of land, and the same defendant is continuing to occupy said property and enjoy the fruits from the day of the death of your petitioners' mother up to the present time.<sup>38</sup>

The plaintiffs also alleged that thirty-three living slaves and ten slaves, then deceased, had been community property. They noted that these slaves had had an increase of twenty-eight to that date. Finally, they alleged that eight slaves had been purchased by the community. They likewise claimed that there were farm animals and implements that were community property. Lastly, they alleged that the sugar, molasses, cotton, and corn produced with this community property had netted approximately \$100,000. The petitioners asked the court to establish their rights in this matter and to award them what was legally theirs.<sup>39</sup>

John Wilkins' immediate response to this suit was to file suit against Richard on May 30, 1850, alleging that Richard had failed to divide, according to their partnership agreement, the net profits of the plantation for the crop years 1847 and 1848. Moreover, Richard, it was alleged, had refused to render an account of the plantation's earnings.<sup>40</sup>

Richard, in response on June 24, 1850, denied his father's allegations; the court therefore ordered a trial. The case developed slowly, however, and no trial date had been set by the time of John Wilkins' death. With his death, the case was dismissed.<sup>41</sup>

Wilkins' response to the allegations of his sons, son-in-law, and tutor of his grandson came on January 6, 1851, slightly over a year after the plaintiffs' petition had been filed with the court. Wilkins opened his response by expressing regret that the plaintiffs had seen fit to disturb his declining years by such an obnoxious and harassing suit. He noted that he was then nearly "four-score years,"<sup>42</sup> that he could not live much longer, and that all he possessed would soon come into the hands of the plaintiffs. He was deeply grieved, therefore, that his heirs had seen fit to use such tactics to harass him.

He then stated that he had worked all of his life and spent that lifetime in temperance, frugality, and economy, in order that his heirs might enjoy a degree of prosperity. He

38. St. Mary Parish Original Suit No. 4098. The plaintiffs' petition was filed on December 29, 1849.

39. *Ibid.* This suit was brought against John Wilkins three days after Richard purchased a plantation on Bayou Teche (about two miles east of the Franklin courthouse) from Horatio Bayless. The land was six arpents wide facing the bayou by forty arpents deep. See St. Mary Parish Conveyance Book 13, p. 596.

40. St. Mary Parish Original Suit No. 4242.

41. *Ibid.*

42. The 1850 census had recorded him as being 70 years old. A year later he is saying that he is nearly eighty. The census figure may have been in error.

denied the allegations of the plaintiffs, except as concerned the community-owned property. No crop of sugar (or perhaps one small crop) had been made prior to Maria Claiborne Wilkins' death. The only production of the plantation had been corn to feed the slaves and the animals.

Wilkins denied that the community owned any slaves. He did admit, however, that the community owned 2,500 acres of land, of which he had cleared and cultivated 600 acres. With the proceeds from this production he had paid off the community debt. The remainder of the land had stayed idle all those years and any or all of the heirs would have been welcomed to clear and cultivate any portion of it.

He noted that much of the land he had purchased was bought with funds generated from the sale of property that belonged solely to him in Virginia or with money that he personally borrowed from Henry W. Peebles. He admitted that he had brought about eighty slaves from Virginia, but these, too, were his personal property.

Wilkins continued that he had spent considerable sums on his children's educations, that he had given each of them five to seven slaves, and that as adults he had given all of his children, except Richard, donations amounting to \$10,000. To Richard, his donations had amounted to \$20,000. Moreover, he had but recently given Richard \$10,770 to buy some slaves and land for his account, but Richard, instead, had bought the slaves and land for himself.<sup>43</sup>

John Wilkins concluded his answer to the plaintiff's petition by stating that he had good reason to believe that his son, John Henry, his son-in-law, Hardin Burnley, and the tutor of his grandson, John Wilkins Maclin, had been misled by Richard into becoming co-plaintiffs and therefore that they desired to withdraw from the suit. He asked the court to query the three regarding their continuing status as plaintiffs.<sup>44</sup>

In essence, then, this suit and John Wilkins' suit against Richard were simply the climax of a family feud that apparently started or resumed a short time after Richard's second marriage and around the time he entered into the planting partnership with his father. It is obvious that Richard labored under the belief that most, if not all, of his father's wealth, at the time of his first wife's death, was community property and should be shared with her heirs, especially in view of his father's later marriage to Maria Nolan.

It is also easy to understand John Wilkins' position. A great amount of his wealth had been inherited or self-generated before marriage. Moreover, Maria Claiborne must not have brought a significant dowry to the community, for nothing to this effect is mentioned in the 1836 or in the 1851 documents. If she had, and the fact was being concealed by John Wilkins, it would have been a simple matter for Richard to learn of the dowry from relatives in Virginia. Thus, if the community property amounted to only the value of acquisitions made with community funds, and then liquidated at the time the Wilkinses left Virginia, the amount invested in the plantation in Louisiana (\$19,000) would have easily wiped out the community property. Since Maria Claiborne Wilkins died with the community owing this sum, for which John Wilkins had been solely responsible for repayment, community property, indeed, was no longer extant.

In the little more than a year which passed between John Wilkins' response to his children's suit and his death, a few items concerning family matters can be documented. During 1851 the district court ordered an inventory of Wilkins' property, thus giving the impression that the judge, Cornelius Voorhies, saw sufficient merit in the plea of the plaintiffs to take this step.<sup>45</sup>

43. See footnote 39.

44. St. Mary Parish Original Suit No. 4098.

45. *Ibid.*

During the year, the court also queried John Henry Wilkins, Hardin Burnley, and William B. Maclin about their sincerity as co-plaintiffs in this case. In June, 1851, John Henry Wilkins and Burnley responded to the court that it was their intention to withdraw as plaintiffs. On November 27, a letter from Maclin notified the court of his intention to withdraw as a co-plaintiff. Richard Wilkins, however, sought to pursue the matter and the suit was pending when John D. Wilkins died on February 5, 1852.<sup>46</sup> The *Franklin Planters' Banner* carried a brief obituary:

John D. Wilkins died on his plantation the 5th inst.  
He was revered by all who knew him.<sup>47</sup>

John Wilkins died intestate; therefore, his heirs and widow asked Jules G. Olivier, a long-time friend of the family and a St. Mary Parish attorney, to serve as administrator of the estate. Mr. Olivier's first act was to inventory and appraise Wilkins' personal property as well as the property he owned in community with his wife. This document indicates that Wilkins personally owned fifty-four slaves and had movable and immovable property valued at \$47,655. The community property included 860 acres of land, eight adult and six juvenile slaves, the Texas property, and other movable and immovable property valued at \$30,000.<sup>48</sup>

What plans the widow and heirs had for partitioning the estate, particularly the community property, will probably never be known, for on September 18, 1852, while John D. Wilkins' estate was being probated, Maria Nolan Wilkins also died intestate. Having no known relatives, her estate was declared vacant and the court ordered that her share of the community property be sold with that of her late husband's in order that a partition might be effect among the heirs of John D. Wilkins.<sup>49</sup> The court, in early 1853, appointed Ben-

46. *Ibid.*

47. *Franklin Planters' Banner*. Extensive investigation has failed to reveal where John D. Wilkins was buried.

48. St. Mary Parish Original Estate No. 761. It is somewhat baffling why a man of John Wilkins' intellect would not have prepared a will. Perhaps it was the family circumstances which convinced him that by dying intestate his estate would be administered by a disinterested third party, but one acceptable to all heirs.

49. See St. Mary Parish Original Suit No. 4576. On September 29, 1852, Jules Olivier informed the court that Maria Nolan Wilkins had died intestate and that she had no known heirs. He petitioned the court to declare the estate vacant, to order an inventory of the community property belonging to Mrs. Wilkins, and to name counsel to represent any unknown heirs. The court named attorney Jean Tessier to represent the interests of the unknown heirs. Details concerning the estate of Maria Nolan Wilkins can be found in "Proceedings in the Estate of Maria Nolan, Decd. wife of John D. Wilkins," St. Mary Parish Probate Book, 1852, pp. 232-246.

jamin Wilkins and Henry W. Peebles to oversee the rights of the minor heirs, John W. Maclin and Mary W. Burnley.<sup>50</sup>

The sale of the Wilkins estate occurred over a period of two years following the death of John D. Wilkins and can be described as falling into two part. The first part involved the lands which Wilkins had bought in partnership with Henry Peebles. The Wilkins share amounted to 1,934 acres. On March 17, 1853, this plantation was sold to Francois Optat Darby for \$17,800.<sup>51</sup> Slaves and other movable property brought another \$18,854, for a total of \$36,654.<sup>52</sup>

The second part of the sale of John Wilkins' lands occurred at an auction held on March 29, 1854. Purchasers were William Weeks, Henry W. Peebles, William Jacobs, Jacques Derouen, John French, Jules and Joseph Gary, Alphonse Olivier, Narcisse Boutte, and Perezin Romero.<sup>53</sup> With this and other movable property sold, the estates of John D. Wilkins and Maria Nolan Wilkins had generated nearly \$100,000.<sup>54</sup>

Then, in May, 1854, about two months following the final sale of the Wilkins property, the Fourteenth Judicial District Court received the petition of Edward Francis Nolan and Robert H. Nolan of Londonderry, Ireland, and Evelina Nolan Wallace of Liverpool, England. They claimed to be the lawful heirs of Maria Nolan Wilkins and they named Franklin attorney S. H. McGill to represent them.<sup>55</sup>

The court-appointed attorney for the absent heirs, Jean Tessier, challenged the legitimacy of their claim of kinship and the matter was taken to trial. On July 22, 1854, Judge Albert Voorhies ruled that all evidence clearly indicated that Edward and Robert Nolan and Evelina Nolan Wallace were in fact the next of kin of Maria Nolan Wilkins.<sup>56</sup>

In September, 1854, Jules Olivier remitted to S. H. McGill the first installment of the monies owing to the heirs of Maria Wilkins. There would be a total of six installments, totalling over \$17,000, paid to her heirs.<sup>57</sup> With the legal processes completed, the heirs of John Douglass Wilkins and Maria Nolan Wilkins partitioned the estates and went their separate ways.

50. St. Mary Parish Original Estate No. 761. Benjamin Wilkins, John's younger brother, probably moved to Louisiana from Mississippi in the fall of 1851. For additional information on Benjamin see a succeeding segment of this article.

51. St. Mary Parish Original Estate No. 761. On January 3, 1859, Darby sold this plantation to Dr. Leonard J. Smith of New Iberia for \$25,400. The sale included about 500 head of cattle. For this sale, see St. Mary Parish Conveyance Book M, p. 652. Smith and Darby were brothers-in-law.

52. St. Mary Parish Original Estate No. 761.

53. *Ibid.*

54. The land in Texas was sold later. *Ibid.* The total value of the estates of John and Maria Wilkins are not presented in *ibid.* because the proceeds from the sale of the Texas land and bonds were not recorded here.

55. St. Mary Parish Probate Book, 1852, p. 239.

56. *Ibid.*, p. 246.

57. St. Mary Parish Original Estate No. 761. The payments in installments were occasioned by the terms of the sale. Purchasers were given up to six years to complete payment for their purchases.



## PART III

## THE HEIRS OF JOHN D. WILKINS

Once the estates of John D. Wilkins and his wife were fully probated, the heirs gradually drifted away from St. Mary Parish. Benjamin Wilkins, who had come to St. Mary in the last months of his brother's life, acquired land at the confluence of Bayous Teche and Fuselier in St. Martin Parish and there, in 1853, established Forest Home Plantation.<sup>1</sup> Shortly thereafter, John Henry Wilkins left St. Mary Parish to reside for the remainder of his life with Benjamin and his family.<sup>2</sup>

Hardin Burnley returned to his plantation in Assumption Parish, and young John W. Maclin remained in Tennessee under the tutorship of his uncle. Thus, only Richard Wilkins remained in St. Mary Parish in the years immediately following the death of John D. Wilkins.

In late December, 1849, Richard had bought a 240-acre plantation on the west side of Bayou Teche about two miles east of the St. Mary Parish Courthouse. The land was purchased from Horatio Bayless who had acquired it from Hilaire Carlin in April, 1844.<sup>3</sup> To this acquisition, Richard added, in 1856, a 340-acre tract, bought from Alexander L. Fields, a local surveyor.<sup>4</sup>

The fifty-four slaves personally owned by John D. Wilkins were divided among the four heirs in 1853. Richard's share of the Negroes went to work on his plantation, which he had named "Brunswick."

Although he planted sugarcane, Richard Wilkins' planting operation cannot be considered to have been one of the larger operations in St. Mary Parish.<sup>5</sup> In addition to sugar, however, Brunswick Plantation also produced large amounts of yams and corn which, in years of surplus, also served as cash crops.<sup>6</sup>

Like his father, Richard was interested in improving agricultural techniques. Toward this end, he was a founder of the local Agricultural and Horticultural Society.<sup>7</sup>

In the final analysis, however, Richard's sojourn in St. Mary Parish seems to have been tied to the duration of the installment payments derived from the sale of his father's estate. The last installment was paid to the heirs in March, 1859.<sup>8</sup> In July, 1860, Richard sold

1. For additional details on Benjamin Wilkins, see the forthcoming segment of this article.

2. There is no clear indication as to when John Henry moved to Benjamin's plantation, but Jules Olivier noted in 1858, for the first time, that John Henry did not personally receive his share of that year's installment payments from the sale of the Wilkins estate. St. Mary Parish Original Estate No. 761.

3. The sale to Richard is found in St. Mary Parish Conveyance Book 13, p. 596.

4. St. Mary Parish Conveyance Book L, p. 201. It should be noted that the 1850 agricultural census indicates that Richard had only 120 acres under cultivation. In the decade that he remained on Brunswick Plantation, it is unlikely that he brought fifty percent of his acreage under cultivation.

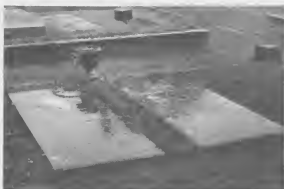
5. Champomier, *Statement of the Sugar Crop* . . . , reveals that in the decade that Richard remained in Louisiana his largest sugar production occurred in 1852 (120,000 lbs.), after which it declined for several years, reaching the low point (8,000 lbs) in the climatically disastrous year of 1856. A year before he sold Brunswick Plantation, Richard's production had risen to 110,000 lbs.

6. This information is derived from the 1850 agricultural census of St. Mary Parish.

7. *Franklin Planters' Banner*, March 3, 1853.

8. St. Mary Parish Original Estate No. 761.

Brunswick Plantation to his neighbor, Euphrosie Carlin for \$45,000.<sup>9</sup> He and his family then moved to the Richmond area and established their home. There is no indication that Richard or any member of his immediate family ever resided in Louisiana after that time.<sup>10</sup>



Drenched by an early morning rain, the graves of Richard Wilkins (left) and his wife, Margaret Minge Wilkins, appear in this solemn scene in Live Oak Cemetery in Selma, Alabama.

9. St. Mary Parish Conveyance Book 0, p. 32.

10. Richard's family moved to the Richmond area in 1860. He and two of his sons served in the Confederate Army. In 1870 the family moved to Selma, Alabama. Richard died there on April 27, 1877. His wife survived until 1895 and died in Birmingham, Alabama. The Wilkinses are buried in Live Oak Cemetery, Selma, Alabama. This information is gathered from Benjamin Harrison Wilkins' *War Boy* and from the *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st ser., XXI (1912), 31. The article in the *Quarterly* incorrectly identifies the cemetery in Selma as the "Oakwood" cemetery.

John Henry Wilkins, the eldest son of John D. Wilkins and Maria Cole Claiborne, was a deaf-mute.<sup>11</sup> Perhaps it was for this reason that he never married. It was obviously for this reason that he had lived in his father's house until his father's death and may have lived there longer had not his stepmother, Maria Nolan, died shortly after her husband.

As noted above, the heirs of John D. Wilkins ultimately decided to liquidate his estate and divide the proceeds. At the time this was done, all of the heirs, except John Henry, had homes and property of their own. Fortunately for John Henry, his uncle Benjamin had decided to move to his Louisiana plantation shortly before his brother John died. Thus, following his brother's death, it was Benjamin and his family who cared for John Henry for the remainder of his life.<sup>12</sup>

The 1870 census for St. Martin Parish records that John Henry was living on Benjamin's plantation on Bayou Fuselier, just outside the limits of present-day Arnaudville, in his own house together with a Negro man-servant. Ten years later, John Henry was living at the home of Benjamin's widow, Sarah, and her son, Robert. By then, John Henry was seventy years old. He would live on another five years and become the last living member of the Wilkins family who migrated from Virginia. On September 30, 1885, John Henry Wilkins died. His cousins Sarah and Robert Wilkins laid him to rest on the plantation, next to his beloved Uncle Benjamin.<sup>13</sup>



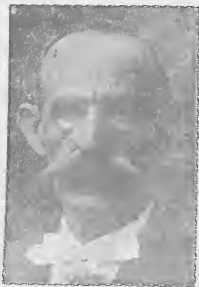
11. This fact is recorded in the 1880 census for the Fifth Ward of St. Martin Parish. John Henry's handicap would also account for the fact that he played such a minor role in the affairs of the Wilkins family.

12. This is not to suggest that John Henry could not financially care for himself. After all, following the partition of his father's estate, he had become a wealthy man.

13. A small overturned headstone on the property of Mr. James Singleton of Arnaudville, La., today marks the final resting place of John Henry Wilkins. Mr. Singleton kindly brought the author to the grave site during a visit on October 20, 1981.



Front cover of the souvenir program for the 27th annual convention of the Louisiana State Firemen Association, held in Lafayette, La., September 8-10, 1932.



JUDGE WILLIAM CAMPBELL, founder of the Hobo Volunteer Company, was president of that organization from 1898 to 1908.



LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT 1925 - Firemen pictured are, from left, L.N. Richard, C.N. Vazey, George Bernard, Mascot Bobby Bernard, Chief William Graser, Leo Grös, Paul Krauss, Willie Landry, Adam Chagnon, Leo Ditch, Leo Breaux, Jules Krauss, C.D. Pitre, and unidentified.

HOBO VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.  
Lafayette, Louisiana

Organized January 20, 1925    Central Fire Station

*Charter Members*

William Grasier, Chief  
George Bernard, First Asst. Chief  
Louis Krauss, Second Asst. Chief  
C. D. Pitre, Captain  
Leo J. Gross, Captain  
Bill Morgan, Asst. Captain  
Andrew Broussard, Asst. Captain  
Otto Bernard, Driver  
Sidney Landry, Driver  
Leo L. Ditch, Sec.-Treas.

*Firemen*

Fred Grasier  
Jules Krauss  
Adam Chargois  
Ben Duhon  
Ralph Grasier  
Willie Landry  
Francis Gardebled  
Ewel Breaux

Nat Mouton  
L. N. Richard  
Cleon Lalanne  
C. W. Lalanne  
Olide Johnston  
Albert Savoy  
C. N. Veazey



LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT 1930— Firemen pictured are, from left, Albert Savoy, Leonce Breaux, Gaston Toussell, Eddie Richard, Leo Gros, Pierre Geric, Otto Bernard, L.F. Babin, Norton Bernard, Andrew Broussard, and George Bernard.

# *History of* **LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT** *1898 - 1932\*\**

*by Ralph Roch Bienvenu \**

Loyalty, brought about by inspiration from the activities of men who have served and served well, is perhaps the greatest factor that guides fire fighters and urges them on to greater and better service in their work.

If this be true, then Lafayette should have the best fire fighting unit in the country, for in a comparatively short time the department has grown to what it is through the activities of beloved citizens who brought the birth of what is now known as the Lafayette Fire Department.

Back in 1898 with the assistance of the late Judge William Campbell, the disbanded Hook and Ladder Company was reorganized into a fire fighting company known as the Hobo Volunteers. This membership of 25 men, the greater part hard working citizens, necessarily wore the clothes of what might have been mistaken for the "Knights of the Road"—hence the name Hobo. Judge Campbell was named president of the Company, with F. H. Mouton, now Clerk of Court for Lafayette Parish, as Secretary; John J. Grasier and Paul Castel as Foremen; D. V. Gardebled as Treasurer; and the late William "Bill" Grasier and Abe Hirsch as Nozzleman.

Thirty-four years ago, the entire equipment for Lafayette, with a population of about 5,000 persons, included one wagon-like contraption to haul their stupendous sum of 200 feet of hose from their humble little "Shack Station" which occupied one end of the Court House Square. The "bucket brigade" at that time was an important factor. But as it were, Lafayette was fortunate to suffer very little from serious conflagrations.

At the time of the organization of the Volunteers in 1898, the city appropriated \$35,000 for the erection of a water works plant. The Hobo Company continued its operations for ten years and grew to a membership of more than 80. During these ten years Judge Campbell and Mr. Mouton served as officers, and, upon completing this service, in 1908, they were presented gold-tipped walking canes at a public ceremony. Mr. Mouton will undoubtedly be seen at the convention with this cane. Besides these two "Stand-bys," the work and active support of Dominique Gardebled, who served as treasurer, commanded great respect and served to inspire the members to great achievements.

In 1908 the activities of the Hobo Volunteers were placed under the supervision of the newly organized Lafayette Fire Department, and while both organizations existed as separate ones, one was as important as the other. There also came into existence in 1908 fire fighters known as the "Silk Stockings," being an organization of the "Dudes of the Times." Dr. G. A. Martin, known throughout this section as "Bedon," took an active part in its organization.

\* The "History of the Lafayette Fire Department 1898-1932" by Ralph Roch Bienvenu appeared in the "Souvenir Program" for the 27th Annual Convention of Louisiana State Firemen Association.

\*\* Materials for this article were submitted by L. F. Babin, a member of the Lafayette Fire Department for 42 years and fire chief from 1962 to 1972, when he retired. Born in Brusly, West Baton Rouge Parish, Babin is the grandson of the late Felix Voorhies of St. Martinville. He has lived in Lafayette since 1927.

Inspired by the accomplishments of the Volunteers and purposed to enlarge the department, a Junior Hobo Volunteer Company, with 25 volunteers, was organized on January 20, 1925, by William "Bill" Grasier. The organization today is an active unit of the paid department, and its membership includes 25 men. The members take part in the drills and assist in fire fighting with the paid men.

The paid department was started in 1917 under the administration of Dr. F. E. Girard. The first truck, a 300 gallon pumper, was bought in 1917. A Willis Knight hose truck was added in 1918, a Ford Hose truck in 1921, an American-LaFrance 750 gallon pumper in 1924, and two American-LaFrance 500 gallon pumpers and a salvage truck in 1930.

The department consists of a regular crew of ten men with five men on extra board and 25 volunteers. The equipment includes three fire trucks and a salvage truck, an ample supply of hose and chemicals and first aid materials and two stations, the Central and Pelican stations, referred to now as Station Nos. 1 and 2. The department has access to a cozy little Club House which is located near the Central Station. The city has a modern Gamewell electric signal system.

Fire Chiefs who have served the city of Lafayette are B. Falk, Frank G. Mouton, Gus Schmullen, John Allingham, Dr. G. A. Martin, William Grasier, Pierre Gerac, and the present fire chief, Leo Gros, who took over the department on May 18, 1931. Chief Gros is the first full-time paid chief since the organization of the paid fire department.



FRANK G. MOUTON, father of Lt Governor Fernand Mouton, was fire chief between 1908 and 1910.

The Lafayette Fire Department and the Volunteers maintain a 100 per cent membership in the Louisiana State Firemen's Association and send each year four men, two from the paid department and two from the volunteers, to the State Firemen's College at Baton Rouge. The fire drills at the station serve to keep them informed of the latest methods in scientific fire fighting.

Lafayette is justly proud of its fire department and the "boys" are without a doubt the most congenial set of men to be found in the city of Lafayette. Each member takes pride in his duty and the unit functions smoothly and effectively in its work.

Lafayette has grown from a population of 5,000 in 1908 to a population of over 15,000 in 1932. The fire department has grown with it and the spirit brought about from the inspiration of the activities of the men who served and served well has truly developed a sense of loyalty among the members, making Lafayette's Fire Department one of the outstanding ones in Louisiana.

The Lafayette Firemen are happy and honored to have the members of the state association hold their convention in Lafayette and hope that the members will enjoy and profit from the sessions.

Holding of the 27th annual convention of the Louisiana State Firemen's Association in Lafayette will add interesting pages to the history of the Lafayette Fire Department; pages which will be cherished; long remembered, and pages which will be proudly shown to the generation of fire fighters to come.

The Lafayette Fire Department is anxious to improve itself and has manifested that interest by joining the Louisiana State Firemen's Association in the year of 1926 and maintaining 100 per cent membership at this time. The department will join the other firemen of the state in all of the activities of the association with the hope that it will serve honorably and effectively.



LAFAYETTE  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
1949

LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT 1949— First row, left to right, Fireman 1/c F.D. Gardebled, 7 years service; Driver Lawrence Benoit, 4 years; Mayor Ashton Mouton; Assistant Chief Leo Ditch, 18 years; Chief A.F. Broussard, 23 years; Fireman 1/c Pershing Benoit, 3 years; and Fireman 1/c C.N. Veazey, Jr., 3 years. Second row— Fireman 1/c Meo Melancon, 10 years; Driver Walter Viator, 9 years; Capt. L.F. Babin, 12 years; Sidney Delhomme; Fireman 1/c Stanley Guidry, 2 years; Capt. Albert Savoy, 12 years; Fireman 1/c Jack Dore, 18 years; Driver N.J. Landry, 18 years; and Claude Castillo, 18 years.



# Revised Index to St. Mary Parish Estates 1811 - 1900

(Continued from Vol. XVII, No. 1)

Compiled by  
*Mrs. Clyde Alpha, Mrs. Margery Laws Luke,  
Mrs. Dorrie R. Richard, and Mary Elizabeth Sanders*

Edited and submitted by  
*Mary Elizabeth Sanders*

ESTATE NO.	NAME	YEAR OPENED
300	Margaret McKay Baldwin, wife of John Hayes, widow in first marriage of Joseph Houston. [SM 11 112]	1835
324	Mrs. Isaac Baldwin, nee Eliza Williams. [SM 111 88]	1836
470	Cyrus/Cyrcien Baldereaux	1842
507	Andrew J. Banton	1844
577	Isaac Baldwin	1845
2501	John Baldwin, Sr.	1884
223	William S. Barr	1832
306	Margaret Barr, wife of Dr. Walter Brashear	1835
318	Claude Alexander Baron, alias Le Baron	1836
322	Mrs. Stefano (Stephen) Barabino (sometimes Barabino/ Barabin), nee Magdelline Norra	1836
358	Stefano Barabino (sometimes Barabino/Barabin)	1837
465	Joseph Barthelemy	1841
623	Carmelite Barabine (sometimes Barabino/Barbin), widow of Eugene Senette. Succession has no guide card in- dicator.	1847
624	George Barnes	1847
803	Samuel N. Barlow	1853
865	John Barnard	1854
2169	Eulalie Barbino (sometimes Barbino/Barabin), wife of Auguste Trastour	1869
2193	John Barabino (sometimes Barabino/Barabin)	1870
2647	Margaret Barnett, wife of Henry C. Barnett	1891
2652	James McPherson Barnett [see also Estate No. 3122]	1891
78	J. William Bastine (Missing)	1819
2098	Mrs. John Mills Batemen, nee Mary Vance Hulick	1866
2113	John Mills Bateman & Mary Vance Hulick, his wife, both deceased.	1867
2175	Jean Bertrand Bates. Indexed as Bales.	1869
2752	Mannah Wheaton Bateman	1894
2777	Richard Batterbee. Indexed as Batable.	1896
363	Catherine Baudoin, widow of William Desk, widow in first marriage of Pierre Etier, pere [Sr.]	1837
257A	Mstilda Jane Sidney Baylies/Bailes, widow of David Smith	1833

ESTATE NO.	NAME	YEAR OPENED
697	Horatio N. Bayles/Baylis	1849
789	Benoit Baron Bayard	1852
2104	Michael Baylan/Boylan	1867
444	Richard S. Beasley	1841
815	Widow Bearie/Beatie, nee Delila Mason, vacant	1853
2131	Francois Beaulieu. Indexed as Beaullein.	1867
2587	Canby J. Beadle	1888
2728	Mrs. Rodriguez Beauregard, nee Ernestine Prevost. (Missing)	1894
34	I. Or J. Beekley. (Missing)	1814
375	Jacob Beel	1838
604	Maria Beck, wife of James Beck	1846
637	James Beck	1846
1040	Jotham H. Bedell	1859
2171	Mrs. Archibald B. Bein, nee Virginia L. Hudson	1869
2281	James Bedunnah. Indexed as Beduronah.	1874
220	Robert Bell	1832
228	Samuel Bell	1834
361	Louis Bellomy. Indexed as Belony Louis.	1837
388	Thomas Bell	1838
389	Mrs. David Bell, nee Ann B. Disiker	1838
763	Mathew Bell, vacant	1852
822	Mary Bell, wife of Mathew Rogers	1853
915	Mary Bell	1856
1043	Daniel Bell	1860
2099	Mrs. Elizabeth Bell	1867
2134	Davidson Bell	1867
2474	Mrs. Hypolite Bellocy, nee Mary Louisa Birg. Indexed as bellocy.	1880
2588	Emma Bellocy, daughter of Hypolite Bellocy and his wife, Mary Louisa Birg, both deceased; tutorship of	1888
2615	Issac Bell, Sr.	1889
2952	Emma Louisa Bellocy, a femme sole	1900
403	John L. Benson, dentist	1839
860	Edward Benson	1854
2290	Mrs. Mary Ann Bennett, wife of Thomas Bennett	1874
48	Achille Berard. (Partially missing.) (Multiple missing.)	1816
48	P. H. Bernard. (Missing.) (Multiple missing.)	1816
49	Antoine Berard/Bertrand. (Missing.) (Multiple listing.)	1816
93	Mrs. Pierre Hyacinthe Bernard, nee Catherine Laurendiny. (Missing.) Indexed as C. Lawiending. This is probably the succession of Catherine Laurendiny, the wife of Pierre Hyacinthe Bernard. See SM 1 18.	
113	Jean-Baptiste Bertrand, Jr.	1824
342	Daniel Berthune/Bertherne/Bethune	1837
364	Mary Elizabeth Bertrand, widow of Nicolas Broussard	1837
382	Jean-Baptiste Bertrand, Sr.	1838
471	Christine Berard, widow of Agricole Fuselier, Sr.	1842
694	Jules Berger	1849
796	Joseph Berwick	1852
809	Mrs. Nathan Berwick, nee Susan Rochel	1853

ESTATE NO.	NAME	YEAR OPENED
840	Mrs. Joseph Berwick, nee Nancy O'Brien, widow in first marriage of ———— Ashlock.	1854
880	Marguerite Bertrand, widow of Henry Rentrop	1855
974	Charles Bernard, Sr.	1858
976	Mrs. Nathan Berwick, nee Olivia K. Robertson	1858
1000	Antoine Bertrand	1859
1079	Joseph/Josiah Berryman	1861
2005	Charles Bernauer	1862
2121	Mrs. David Berwick, nee Louisa Garrett	1867
2181	Nathan Berwick	1869
2260	Blanco Bertrand & Philomene Falcon, his wife, both deceased	1872
2291	David Berwick	1874
2390	Joseph Berwick	1879
2541	Estelle Bernard, widow of Dazincourt Lange	1886
2589	Mrs. Oscar D. Berwick, nee Virginia Adelaide Dungan	1888
2768	Addie Berwick, wife of Nathan K. Todd	1895
2890	Mrs. Sarah Luke Berwick, wife of Horace M. Berwick	1898
2921	John Bernauer	1899
2924	Mrs. Numa J. Bergeron, nee Elmira M. Aycock. See also Estate No. 3318.	1899
2976	Mrs. Millard F. Berry, nee Lydia Caroline Written. [Her maiden name is unclear in the record.]	1900
495	Nancy Best, wife of John W. Dough	1843
342	Daniel G. Bethune/Berthune/Bertherne	1837
873	Agnes Bethell & Thomas Torian, her husband, both deceased	1854
2141	Ann B. Bethell, wife of William Jennings Nash	1868
116	William Biggs	1821
224	William Biggs	1832
410	Firmin G. Birdsall	1839
640	Abby Ann Birdsall, wife of William Sharp [A 11 47]	
1055	George W. Biley. See Riley.	
2255	Sebastien Bigler	1860
2266	Felix Birg	1873
2474	Marie Louisa Birg, wife of Hypolite Bellocy	1880
2772	Louisa Ada Bienvenu, wife of Anatole Wolford	1895
2899	Elizabeth Bigler, wife of Peter Ostheimer	1899
2534	Junius Black	1885
2549	Abraham Blackwell	1886
2688	Emma Blanchard, wife of Fred W. Perkins	1892
2774 1/2	G. C. Blakeman. (Missing.)	1895
243	Grotius Bloss	1833
896	Samson Block	1855
2183	Ann Blockley: Appointment of tutor.	1869
2667	Mrs. Lazu Block, nee Marie Felice Frere	1891
434	Mrs. Gregor Bodin, nee Pelagie LeBlanc	1840
667	Simon Bodin	1849
715	Marie A. Bodin, widow Savoie	1850
895	Mrs. Norbert Bodin, nee Amelie Bonin	1855

(To be Continued)

# Records of Belle Isle-en-Mer

*Translated by Mathé Allain*

*(Continued from Vol. XVI, No. 4)*

*Family of Louis Athanaze Trahant,  
from the village of Borderun,  
parish of Sauson*

In 1767, on March 3, appeared Louis Athanaze Trahant, from the village of Borderun, parish of Sauson, who declared, in the presence of Joseph Babin, Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, Louis Courtin, and Pierre Doucet, all Acadians living on this island, witnesses, that he was born at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption, in February 1734, son of Francois Trahant and Angelique Melancon.

The said Francois Trahant had been born at Pisiquid in 1702, son of Guillaume Trahant and Jacqueline Benoit; Guillaume Trahant having been born to another Guillaume Trahant, who had come from France and, at Port Royal, married Magdelaine Brun, both of them having died at the said place.

Angelique Melancon was the daughter of Philippe Melancon and Marie Dugast, the said Philippe Melancon having been born to Pierre Melancon, who came from England and married after conversion, Anne Marie Mius of Port Royal, both of them having died at Mines, parish of St. Charles.

From the marriage of Francois Trahant, who died at Liverpool in August 1756, and Angelique Melancon, who died at the same place in June 1757, were born at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption:

Marie Trahant, in 1731, married at Liverpool in April 1758 to Gabriel Moreau, of Saintonge, who lives now at Morlaix. The aforesaid Louis Athanaze Trahant, deponent.

Anne Genevieve Trahant, born in 1741, married to Honore Duon, living in the village of Marthal, parish of Bangor.

Paulicarp Trahant, born in 1743, still a bachelor who went to Cayenne.

Ange Marin, in 1745, still a bachelor who went to Cayenne with his brother.

Cecile Pelagie Trahant, in 1749, who lives in the village of Borderun, parish of Sauson, with her brother, Louis Athanaze Trahant.

Philippe Trahant, born on June 24, 1751, who lives in Borderun with his brother Louis Athanaze Trahant.

From the marriage of Louis Athanaze Trahan, married at Liverpool, with dispensation, on December 17, 1756, to Marguerite LeBlanc, daughter of Joseph LeBlanc and Magdelaine La Lande, sister of Joseph LeBlanc who lives in the village of Bernansec, parish of Sauson. They have the same lineage which was recorded on the Sauson register; from that marriage were born at Morlaix, parish of St. Martin, bishopric of St. Paul de Leon

Simon Laurent Trahant, on October 11, 1763.

Jean-Marie Trahant, on June 17, 1765.

Such is the declaration of the said Louis Athanaze Trahant which was read to him and he declared it true, and that he could not sign. Recorded at the said Sauson in the presence of the aforesaid witnesses, [and] of Joseph Benoist, pastor of Sauson, of Jean-Louis Le Loutre, missionary, and in ours, on this day, March 12, of the said year. Ten words were crossed out. The word "declared" was inserted and approved.

Louis Courtin  
Joseph Babin  
J.-M. Le Loutre, missionary

Pierre Doucet  
Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc  
Thebaud  
Jh Benoist,  
pastor of Sauson

*Family of Felix Boudrot,  
from the village of Borderun,  
parish of Sauson*

On March 3, 1767, appeared Felix Boudrot, living in the village of Borderun, parish of Sauson, who, in the presence of Joseph Babin, Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, Louis Courtin, and Pierre Doucet, all Acadians living on this island, witnesses, declared to have been born at Pisiquid, parish of Assumption, on April 4, 1729, son of Francois Boudrot and Angelique Douaron [sic], Francois Boudrot was the son of Charles Boudrot and Marie Corporon; Charles Boudrot was the son of Michel Boudrot, who had come from France with his wife, Michelle Aucoin, and settled at Port Royal, where they both died. Angelique Douaron was born at Pisiquid, parish of the Holy Family, in 1698, daughter of Alexandre Douaron and Anne Babin, the said Alexandre Douaron being the son of Charles Douaron who had come from France and died at Pisiquid.

From the marriage of Francois Boudrot and Angelique Douaron, were born at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption:

Genevieve Boudrot, in 1721, marriage at the same place to Pierre Vincent, son of Pierre Vincent and Marie Richard, deported by the English to Philadelphia.

Alexandre Boudrot, in 1723, married at the same place to Magdelaine Vincent, daughter of Pierre Vincent and Marie Richard; the said Alexandre Boudrot died at Bristol in England in August 1756 and the said Magdelaine Vincent is living in St. Malo with her family.

Germain Boudrot, in 1724, married at the same place a first time to Marguerite Trahant, daughter of Jean Trahant and Charlotte Commeau, Marguerite Trahant died at Bristol in August 1756, along with all the children of this first marriage who died in the same year. Germain Boudrot has remarried at Bristol in 1758, to Anne Hebert, daughter of Jacques Hebert and Marguerite Landry, from Mines. The said Germain Boudrot lives at St. Malo with his family;

Felix Boudrot, deponent, as aforesaid;

Amand Boudrot, in 1731, bachelor who is blind and lives at St. Malo with Germain Boudrot, his brother.

Charles Boudrot, in 1733, married at Bristol in 1758 to Agnes Trahant, daughter of Jean Trahant and Charlotte Comeau. He lives in St. Malo with his family.

Marie Boudrot, in 1737, married at Bristol in 1758, to Charles Theriot, son of Charles Theriot and Anne Landry, living with her family at St. Malo.

The aforesaid Felix Boudrot married at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption, on May 2, 1748, Marie-Josephe LeBlanc, daughter of Jean LeBlanc and Jeanne Bourgeois, sister of Jean LeBlanc, of the village of Bernantec, parish of Sauson, and having the same lineage, recorded in the genealogy gathered at Sauson.

From the marriage of Felix Boudrot and Marie-Josephe LeBlanc were born:

Felicite Boudrot, at Pisiquid, parish of Assumption, on May 24, 1753.

Joseph-Simon Boudrot, at Morlaix, parish of St. Mathieu, bishopric of Treguier, on June 6, 1764.

Such is the declaration of Felix Boudrot, which was read to him, and he declared it true and that he could not sign. Closed at Sauson, over the signatures of the aforesaid witnesses, in presence of Joseph Benoit, pastor of Sauson and Jean-Marie Le Loutre, missionary, and in ours on March 12 of the said year.

Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc  
Joseph Babin  
J. M. Le Loutre, missionary

Pierre Doucet  
Thebaud  
Jh. Benoit,  
pastor of Sauson

*Family of Pierre LeBlanc,  
from the village of Borderun,  
parish of Sauson*

On March 4, 1767, appeared Pierre LeBlanc from the village of Borderun, parish of Sauson, who, in the presence of Joseph Babin, Louis Courtin, Pierre Doucet, and Simon Pierre Daigne, witnesses, all Acadians who live on this island, declared that he was born at Mines, parish of St. Charles, on August 3, 1734, son of Jean LeBlanc dit Derico, and Francoise Blanchard, and lives in the village of Bernantec, parish of Sauson, where the genealogy is being recorded.

The said Pierre LeBlanc, married in England, at Liverpool, in February 1758, Francoise Trahan, who had been born at Riviere-aux-Canards, in 1737, to Joseph Trahan, who died at Liverpool in 1757, and Elizabeth Theriot, who died in Virginia in 1756. The said Joseph Trahan was the son of Jean Trahan and Marguerite Boudrot; Jean Trahan was the son of Guillaume Trahan who came from France, married at Port Royal Magdelaine Brun, and died there, as she did. Marguerite Boudrot was the daughter of Charles Boudrot and Magdelaine Bourg; Charles Boudrot was the son of Michel Boudrot, who had come from France with his wife, Michelle Aucoin. Both of them died in Acadia. The said Elizabeth Theriot was the daughter of Jean Theriot and Marie Landry; Jean Theriot was the son of Claude Theriot and Marie Gautrot of Port Royal, where they both died.

From the marriage of Pierre LeBlanc and Francoise Trahan were born:

Marie LeBlanc, at Liverpool, on October 10, 1760.

Marguerite Genevieve LeBlanc, at Morlaix, parish of St. Mathieu, bishopric of Treguier, on September 6, 1763.

Marie-Therese LeBlanc, born at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, at Palais, parish of St-Gerard, on February 15, 1766.

Such is the declaration of Pierre LeBlanc, which was read to him. He declared it true and that he could not sign. Closed at Sauson, over the signature of the witnesses aforesaid and in the presence of Joseph Benoit, pastor of Sauson, and Jean-Marie LeLoutre, missionary, and in ours, on March 12 of the said year. The words "February," "Francoise," "Marguerite," "Genevieve LeBlanc" were crossed out.

Louis Courtin  
Joseph Babin  
J.-M. LeLoutre,  
missionary

Pierre Doucet  
Simon P. Daigne  
Thebaut  
Jh. Benoit,  
pastor of Sauson

*Family of Jean LeBlanc,  
from the village of Bernantec,  
parish of Sauson*

On March 5, 1767, appeared Jean LeBlanc, who lives in the village of Bernantec, parish of Sauson, who in the presence of Joseph Babin, Louis Courtin, Pierre Doucet, and Simon Pierre Daigre, all Acadians living on this island, declared he was born at Mines, parish of St. Charles, in July 1703, son of Jean LeBlanc, of the said place, and Jeanne Bourgeois. Jean LeBlanc was the son of Andre LeBlanc and Jeanne Dugast; Andre LeBlanc was the son of Daniel LeBlanc, who came from France with his wife, both of them dying at Port Royal. Jeanne Bourgeois was the daughter of Guillaume Bourgeois and Anne Martignon, daughter of Sieur Martignon, who had come from France and married at Pentagoet. Guillaume Bourgeois was the son of Jacques Bourgeois who came to Port Royal from France with his wife, as a surgeon and died at the said place.

From the marriage of Jean LeBlanc and Jeanne Bourgeois were born at Mines, parish of St. Charles:

Jean LeBlanc *dit* Derico, deponant.

Joseph LeBlanc, in 1700, who married to Magdelaine LaLande and who died at Liverpool in 1756. Magdelaine Lalande died at Pisiquid in 1744.

Marie LeBlanc, born at Mines, parish of St. Charles in 1707 and married to Alexandre Belle-Isle Le Borgne, son of Alexandre Belle-Isle Le Borgne and Marie de Saint-Castin; the said Belle-Isle Le Borgne and died at Mines and Marie LeBlanc was deported with her family to Maryland.

Pierre LeBlanc, born at Mines in 1709 and married there to Marguerite Gautrot, daughter of Charles Gautrot and Magdelaine Blanchard. The said Pierre LeBlanc died at Boulogne-en-Mer, and Marguerite Gautrot is presently on the island of Aix with her family.

Silvain LeBlanc, born at the said place, in 1721, married at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption to Anne Leprince, daughter of Antoine Leprince and Anne Trahant. The said Silvain LeBlanc died at Liverpool in 1756 and Anne Leprince lives in Morlaix with her family.

Claude LeBlanc, born in 1723, who lives at the village of Bordicado, parish of Sauson.

Marie-Joseph LeBlanc, born at Mines, on April 4, 1729, married to Felix Boudrot who lives at Borderun, parish of Sauson.

Anne LeBlanc, born at the said place in 1731 and married to Joseph Bogeaux, son of Joseph Bigeaux and Josette Landry, deported with their family to Virginia.

The said Jean LeBlanc *dit* Derico, married in June 1726 Francoise Blanchard, born in the said parish of St. Charles, in May 1705, to Rene Blanc, of Cobequid, and Anne Landry of Port Royal. Rene Blanchard was the son of Martin Blanchard and Marie LeBlanc. Martin Blanchard was the son of Guillaume Blanchard, who came from France with his wife. Huguette Poirier settled at Port Royal and died there. Anne Landry was the daughter of Rene Landry, who came from France with his wife, Marie Bernard. Both of them died at Port Royal.

From the marriage of Jean LeBlanc *dit* Derico and Francoise Blanchard were born at Mines, parish of St. Charles:

Pierre LeBlanc, on August 3, 1734, living at Borderun, parish of Sauson.

Anne LeBlanc, in June 1736, married at Liverpool in February 1758 to Rene Trahant who lives at Calastrene, parish of Bangor. The said Anne LeBlanc died at Morlaix in 1764.

From that marriage was born at Liverpool on December 28, 1761, Raphael Trahant who lives with his father at Calastrene.

Alexis LeBlanc, born at Mines, in February 1742.

Charles LeBlanc, born at the same place, in February 1745.

Marguerite LeBlanc, born at the same place in July 1742.

Thè said Alexis, Charles, and Marguerite LeBlanc live with their father and mother at Bernantec, parish of Sauson.

Such is the declaration of Jean LeBlanc which was read to him. He declared it true and that he could not sign. Done in this parish and signed by the aforesaid witnesses in the presence of Joseph Benoist, pastor of Sauson, Jean-Louis Le Loutre, missionary, and ours, on March 12, of the said year.

Louis Courtin  
Simon P. Daigre

Pierre Doucet  
Joseph Babin  
Thebaud  
Jh. Benoist  
pastor of Sauson

J. M. Le Loutre,  
missionary

*Family of Joseph LeBlanc,  
of the village of Bernantec,  
parish of Sauson*

On March 6, 1767, appeared Joseph LeBlanc, who lives at Bernantec, parish of Sauson, who in presence of Joseph Babin, Louis Courtin, Pierre Doucet, and Simon Pierre Daigre, all Acadians living on this island, declared that he was born at Pisiqid, parish of the Assumption, on March 1, 1731, son of Joseph LeBlanc and Magdelaine LaLande. The said Joseph LeBlanc, father of the deponent, was the brother of Jean LeBlanc, of Bernantec, parish of Sauson. They have the same lineage. The said Magdelaine LaLande, daughter of Pierre LaLande dit "Bon Appetit" who came to Port Royal from France as a soldier and who married Magdeleine Lavergne, daughter of Jacques de Lavergne, who came from France, both dying at Port Royal.

From the marriage of Joseph LeBlanc and Magdelaine LaLande were born at Pisiqid, parish of the Assumption:

Joseph LeBlanc, deponent,

Anne LeBlanc, in 1733, married at Liverpool in December 1757 to Olivier Hebert, son of Joseph Hebert and Magdelaine Trahant, who now live at Morlaix.

Marie LeBlanc, in 1735, married at Isle St. Jean to Anselme Guidry, son of Pierre Guidry and Marguerite Brasseux, who live now at St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Marguerite LeBlanc in 1738 married to Louis Athanaze Trahant, who live at Borderun, parish of Sauson.

Desire Gaspard LeBlanc, in 1740, soldier in Brest, in the royal artillery.

Blanche Cecile LeBlanc, in 1742, married at Morlaix, parish of St. Melaine, bishopric of Treguier, in May 1765, to Pierre Levron, son of Jean-Baptiste Levron and Francoise LaBauve, living at Morlaix.

The said Joseph LeBlanc died at Liverpool in 1756 and Magdelaine LaLande, his wife, died at Pisiqid in 1744.

The said Joseph LeBlanc, deponent, was married at Liverpool on February 1, 1757, to Marie-Modeste Hebert, born at Pisiqid, parish of the Assumption, on April 16, 1736, to Joseph Hebert and Magdeleine Trahant. Joseph Hebert was the son of Jean Hebert and Magdelaine Dugast. Jean Hebert was the son of Emmanuel Hebert and Andree Brun.



Emmanuel Hebert was the son of Etienne Hebert who came from France with his wife, Marie Godet, to settle at Port Royal. Both died there. Magdelaine Trahan was born at Mines, parish of St. Charles, in 1704. She was the daughter of Alexandre Trahan and Marie Pellerin. Alexandre Trahan was the son of Guillaume Trahan, who came from France and, at Port Royal, married Magdelaine Brun. Both died there. Marie Pellerin was the daughter of Jacques Pellerin, who came from Quebec, and Marie Colbec, also from Quebec. They were married at Beaubassin.

From the marriage of Joseph Hebert and Magdelaine Trahan were born:

Marie-Modeste Hebert, wife of the deponent.

Olivier Hebert, on January 1, 1738, married to Anne LeBanc, as stated above.

Pelagie Hebert, in 1745, married to Jean Tierney, born in February 1740 at Limerick, Ireland, parish of St. Anthony. They were married at Liverpool and live at Kerarigeou, parish of Bangor.

Jean-Baptiste Hebert, in 1745, lost at sea.

Marguerite Hebert, in 1747. She lives at Brenantec with Joseph LeBlanc, deponent, her brother-in-law.

From the marriage of Joseph LeBlanc, deponent, and Marie-Modeste Hebert were born:

Marguerite Modeste LeBlanc, at Morlaix, parish of St. Ghislaine, bishopric of Treguier, on August 24, 1753.

Simon LeBlanc, born at the said place, on March 12, 1765.

Victoire-Reine LeBlanc, born at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, parish of Sauson, on December 10, 1760. Such is the declaration of Joseph LeBlanc, which was read to him, and he declared it true and that he could not sign. Done at Sauson, signed by the four witnesses aforesaid, in the presence of Joseph Benoist, pastor of Sauson, Jean-Louis Le Loutre, missionary, and ours, on March 12, of the said year. The words "65" clarified; the word "six", also.

Louis Courtin  
Joseph Babin

Pierre Doucet  
Simon P. Daigre  
Thebaud  
Jh. Benoist,  
pastor of Sauson

J. L. Le Loutre,  
missionary

*Family of Claude LeBlanc,  
village of Bordicado,  
parish of Sauson*

On March 6, 1767, appeared Claude LeBlanc, of Bordicado, parish of Sauson, who, in the presence of Joseph Babin, Louis Courtin, Pierre Doucet, and Simon-Pierre Daigre, all Acadians living on this island, witnesses, declared he was born at Mines, parish of St. Charles, in October 1723, [and that he is the] brother of Jean LeBlanc of Bernantec, having the same lineage. He was married at Cobequid in October 1748 to Marie-Josephe Longue Epee, who was born at the same place on August 1, 1725, the daughter of Louis Longue Epee and Anne Brasseau. Louis Longue Epee was the son of Louis Longue Epee who came from France and married at Port Royal Magdelaine Raimbault. Anne Brasseau was the daughter of Jean Brasseau, who came from France and at Port Royal married Gabriel[le] Forest, both dying at the same place.

From the marriage of Claude LeBlanc and Marie-Josephe Longue Epee, who died at

St. Malo on September 16, 1762, were born:

Jean Dedieu LeBlanc at Cobequid, in October 1752.

Joseph LeBlanc, in the parish of Lagoiniere, bishopric of St. Malo, on March 2, 1760.

Pierre LeBlanc, in the parish of Saint Meloire de [illegible], bishopric of St. Malo, on September 14, 1762.

The said Claude LeBlanc was married a second time in St. Servant parish at St. Malo, in February 1763, to Marie Guidry, widow of Benjamin Mius. The said Benjamin Mius, as well as the children of his marriage, are all dead. Claude LeBlanc and Marie Guidry have no children.

Such is the declaration of Claude LeBlanc, which was read to him. He declared it true and that he could not sign. Done and signed by the witnesses aforesaid in the presence of Joseph Benoist, pastor of Sauson and Jean-Louis Le Loutre, missionary, and ours, on March 12 of the said year.

Louis Courtin  
Simon Pierre Daigre

Pierre Doucet  
Joseph Babin  
Thebaud

J. L. LeLoutre,  
missionary

Jh. Benoist  
pastor of Sauson

*Family of Joseph LeBlanc  
village of Kerledan,  
parish of Sauson*

On March 7, 1767, appeared Joseph LeBlanc, from the village of Kerledan, parish of Sauson who, in the presence of Joseph Babin, Louis Courtin, Pierre Doucet, and Simon Pierre Daigre, all Acadians living on this island, witnesses, declared that he was born at Mines, parish of St. Charles, on January 27, 1730, the son of Rene LeBlanc and Anne Landry of the said place. Rene LeBlanc was the son of Jacques LeBlanc and Genevieve Hebert of Port Royal, the said Jacques LeBlanc being the son of Daniel LeBlanc, who came from France with his wife. They settled at Port Royal and died there. Anne Landry was the daughter of Claude Landry and Anne Thibodault. Claude Landry was the son of Rene Landry, who came from France with his wife, Marie Bernard, and settled at Port Royal. They both died there.

From the marriage of Rene LeBlanc and Anne Landry were born in the said parish of St. Charles:

Claude LeBlanc, in 1711, married to Judithe Benoist, daughter of Pierre Benoist and Elisabeth Le Juge, deported to Boston.

Marie LeBlanc, in 1713, married at the said place to Michel Poirier, son of Pierre Poirier and Agnes Cormier, deported to Carolina.

Jean LeBlanc, in 1715, married there to Marguerite Hebert, daughter of Rene Hebert and Marie Boudrot, deported to Boston.

Charles and Francoise LeBlanc twins, born in 1717. Charles was married at the said place to Anne Boudrot, daughter of Claude Boudrot and Marguerite Meunier. The said Anne Boudrot died in England at Southampton in August 1756. Charles LeBlanc was married again at Southampton to Magdelaine Gautrot, widow of the late Pierre Daigre. They live at St. Malo with their families. Francois LeBlanc married at Beaubassin Anne Cormier, daughter of Germain Cormier, deported to Carolina.

Pierre LeBlanc, in 1719, married at the said place to Claire Boudrot, daughter of Claude Boudrot and Marguerite Meunier, deported to Boston.

Marguerite LeBlanc, in 1721, married at the said place to Charles Hebert, son of Rene Hebert and Marie Boudrot, deported to Boston.

Rene LeBlanc, in 1723, married at the said place to Marie Babin, daughter of Pierre Babin, and Magdelaine Bourg, deported to Boston.

Olivier LeBlanc, in 1725, married at the said place, to Marie-Magdelaine Aucoin, daughter of Martin Aucoin and Elizabeth Boudrot, deported to Philadelphia.

The said Joseph LeBlanc was born at the said place in 1730 and married on August 2, 1750, to Marguerite Trahant.

She was born in April 1730, , the daughter of Pierre Trahant and the late Magdelaine Commeau. The said Pierre Trahant was the father of Marguerite Trahant, wife of the deponent, living at Bordrelasiat [?], parish of Locmaria.

From the said marriage were born at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption:

Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, on March 7, 1752.

Marguerite Olive LeBlanc, on July 25, 1754.

The said Marguerite Trahant died at Liverpool on December 13, 1757.

The said Joseph LeBlanc was married a second time at liverpool, on January 28, 1758, to Anne Hebert, daughter of Jean Hebert, and the late Marguerite Trahant. The said Jean Hebert lives at Hordrehouart, parish of Locmaria.

From this second marriage was born Marguerite-Blanche LeBlanc, parish of Plouzan, bishopric of Treguier, on May 7, 1765.

Such is the declaration of Claude LeBlanc which was read to him. He declared it true and signed it together with the aforesaid witnesses. Done at Sauson, before Joseph Benoist, pastor of Sauson, Jean-Louis Le Loutre, missionary, and us. One word was cropped out.

Joseph LeBlanc

Louis Courtin  
Joseph Babin

Pierre Doucet  
Simon Pierre Daigre  
Thebaud  
Jh. Benoist,  
pastor of Sauson

J. L. LeLoutre,  
missionnaire

(To be Continued)

# Indices to

## St. Landry Parish Probate Court Suits

### 1822 - 1846

(Continued from Vol. XVII, No. 1)

Compiled by Keith P. Fontenot

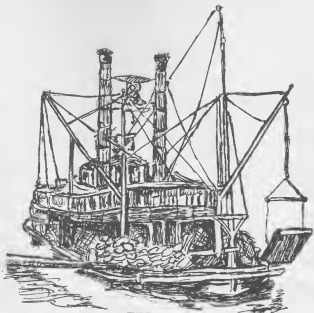
PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	DATE	SUIT NO.
Haley, Thomas. Est. of	Tableau	Jan. 15, 1845	269
Hamilton, Bennett B. Est.	Tableau	Mar. 22, 1838	159
Hensley, Eleanor, wife of Joseph Beauchamp	Luke Lesassier, et al.	July 28, 1826	37
Hill, George	Eliza Touriace, Test. & Exec.	Mar. 9, 1844	254
Holly, Samuel	Estate	Feb. 25, 1845	269
Hudspeth, Green	James Coe	Oct. 23, 1827	46
Hutchings, William	Moses Littell, et al.	June 23, 1827	43
Jackson, William B.	Heirs of Frances Darby	July 20, 1824	13
Janey, Hubert. Heirs of	Mme Janey	Mar. 28, 1828	53
Janey, Marie Aimee	Mme Janey, et al.	Mar. 4, 1836	135
Keithly, Hester, wife of Benjamin Dow	Heirs and widow of John Keithly	Feb. 10, 1831	87
Keithly, John. Heirs of	H. Bell, Admr. of John Davis	Oct. 31, 1832	115
Keller, Mary Ann W.	Richard J. Anderson, et ux.	Jan. 22, 1846	295
Kimball, Betty	Wade Kimball, her husband	Nov. 5, 1825	32
King, Arum. Est of	Tableau	Dec. 18, 1845	291
King, George, et al. (On behalf of Keithly heirs)	Thomas H. Lewis	Feb. 6, 1837	145
King, Valentine	Bridget Lamb, N. T. et al.	Feb. 8, 1825	19
King, Valentine	Thomas H. Lewis, et al.	Aug. 13, 1831	96
Knox, Thomas B. Admr.	William B. Knox, et al.	Apr. 14, 1844	257
Knox, Hannah, widow of James Winchester	Last Will & Test.	Dec. 28, 1842	230
Lambert, Zepherin	Aurore Fontenot, Wid. of Antoine Lambert, fils	Dec. 10, 1835	132
Langlois, Emerante, wife of G. Hollier	Charles Garrigues Flaujeac adm.	Mar. 27, 1833	118
Langlois, Victoire. Heirs.	Mme. Janey	Mar. 28, 1828	53
Lastrapes, Andre	Confirming lots in Opelousas	Jan. 31, 1837	144a

PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	DATE	SUIT NO.
Laughlin, Samuel	William Haslett, Curator, et al.	Apr. 23, 1823	6
Lebsque, Pierre	Heirs and widow of Luc Hollier	Mar. 26, 1827	41
Lebleu, Arsene, U. T., et al.	Marguerite LeJeune & Earnest Godin	Aug. 6, 1839	178
Leger, Mme Paul	Tableau	Aug. 12, 1845	279
Legere, Marie. Widow	Jean B. Richard	Mar. 14, 1844	256
Lernat, Alexandre	William Edmonds, F.M.C. Admr.	Aug. 28, 1845	284
Lewis, Thomas H., U. T.	Edward W. Taylor, Tutor	Mar. 28, 1843	234
Linton, Benjamin F.	Eugene Petitin, Admr.	Mar. 11, 1843	233
Linton, Benjamin F.	John Moore, Admr. of R. Taylor Est.	May 16, 1843	103
Littell, Eliakem. et al.	Thomas H. Lewis, U. T.	Oct. 25, 1838	171
Littell, Moses, et al.	Heirs of Walter McBride	May 4, 1825	23
Louaillier, Etienne Louis, Est. of	Tableau	Jan. 10, 1840	181
Louaillier, Louis	William Moore, Admr. of Est. of M. Collins	July 9, 1832	106
Lyons, Gabriel	Onezime Prudhomme, et al.	Aug. 12, 1843	241
Lyons, Michael	John Shaw, et al.	May 24, 1837	148
Lyons, Michael	Tabitha Andrus, et al.	Dec. 18, 1824	18
Magnin, Jean-Baptiste	Jean-Marie Debaillon, Test.	Feb. 22, 1831	88
Magnin, Jean-Baptiste	Jean-Marie Debaillon, Admr. et al.	Nov. 5, 1834	125
Mahanon, Elizabeth	Jean-Marie Debaillon, Cu- rator of Sam Laughlin Est.	July 20, 1824	12
Mahanon, Elizabeth	Application for appoint- ment of Admr.	Aug. 24, 1830	80
Mahony, Michael	Walter P. Redmond	Nov. 26, 1844	266
Mansfield, Robert. Est of.	Tableau	June 10, 1844	196
Marchand, Mary Ann, F.W.C.	Jean-Marie Debaillon, Exec.	Apr. 21, 1830	70
Marks, Pauline	Valerie Stutes, her husband	Aug. 2, 1830	78
Martin, Edmund H.	Andrew Lastrapes, Exec.	Apr. 2, 1836	136
Martin, Melannie, wife of Auguste Guldry	Estate	May 22, 1846	311
Mayer, Cesaire	Louis Guilbert, her husband	Apr. 23, 1823	8
Mayer, Cesaire	Louis Guilbert, her husband	Apr. 6, 1827	42
Mayer, Emilie, wife of Joseph St. Cyr, et al.	Alexis Mayer, T. U., et al.	Dec. 18, 1841	206

(To Be Continued)

# Death of the Steamer Teche

By Gertrude C. Taylor\*



THE TECHE

The steamboat, *Teche*,<sup>1</sup> which had been running between New Orleans and points along the Atchafalaya and Bayou Teche, burned at water's edge of the Mississippi River near Vacherie at midnight Monday, December 26, 1898. She carried 781 barrels of sugar.

The steamer departed New Orleans on the evening of December 19, and as if fate had already decided that this was to be her last outing, she struck a heavy snag in the Atchafalaya on Christmas Day, the force of the blow being so great that a large hole was stove in her side. Breaking off short at the deck, the jackstaff and one of the derricks which

\*Adapted from an article in the *New Orleans Daily Picayune*, December 28, 1898.

1. Another steamboat named *Teche* plied the waters of Attakapas in the first half of the 19th century. St. Mary Parish Conveyance No. 4092, dated May 10, 1836, sets forth: "John Dough, master of the steamer *Teche* declares that he hereby retains his domicile in St. Mary Parish, La." Mary Elizabeth Sanders, *Selected Annotated Abstracts of St. Mary Parish, La., 1811-1837* (P.P., 1978) III, 53.

Apparently John Dow was living in Franklin for several years before he became master of the steamer *Teche*. On October 15, 1831, J. W. Dough purchased a town lot, fronting on Main Street and running to 50 feet of Bayou Teche, with all buildings and improvements. St. Mary Parish Conveyances, Bk. C, No. 1456.

operate the stageplank were carried away. With the help of skilled laborers and a canvas tarpauline, the hole was patched, and the vessel continued her journey.

After this mishap the master of the *Teche* considered any further burden to be unsafe; therefore, he headed the steamer away from the Atchafalaya and down the Mississippi. Just off Vacherie, about 55 miles above New Orleans, fate struck its final blow. Midstream, the vessel struck some object, submerged or hidden by the darkness of night, the impact of which blow, according to Pilot Edgar Blanchard, was "staggering" and which Captain C.G. Blanchard described as "a terrible shock."

Pilot Blanchard, expecting the boat to part in the middle at any time, headed his boat for the shore. At the same time the crew, aroused from their sleep, rushed from their quarters, and, in the next instant, someone shouted, "Fire!" The after end of the cabin was in flames. The fire quickly circled the thin boarding of the cabin, and, by the time the boat hit shore, the entire roof of the cabin was burning. The crew were able to carry with them most of their belongings; however, they were not able to save the large books of the steamer. They reached land where they were adequately cared for by residents of nearby plantations while for the next two hours the vessel burned. And then the remnants of the hull with its cargo of sugar sank in shallow water.

The ensuing investigation of the accident pointed out that there had been no previous accident at that point in the river and that other vessels passing that spot during the day Monday reported no obstructions. Mr. A. K. Blackmar, owner of the vessel agreed that a possible cause of the fire was an overturned or exploded oil lamp.

The *Teche* originally cost \$40,000 to build. She was valued by her owner at \$25,000 and covered by \$10,000 in insurance. Her cargo of sugar was valued at \$10,000. The consigned cargo was as follows: H. L. Laws and Company, 376 barrels; Levert-Burgulieres and Company, 189 barrels; Thomas McDermott, 88 barrels; and Hermann and Cohn, 128 barrels.

June 12, 1833, John Dough appeared in court to declare he had turned over his share or interest in merchandise, groceries, and articles salvaged from the ship *Trinity* to Alexander Splane of Franklin for a loan of \$500. St. Mary Parish Conveyances, Bk. C, No. 127E. This declaration indicates two possibilities: John Dough could have had an interest in or been the master of the *Trinity*, for which he needed money for repairs, or he could have merely salvaged goods from that ship and was mortgaging these goods.

A New Orleans newspaper notice of January 8, 1836, announces the arrival of the steamer *Teche*, John Dough, master, from St. Martinville. The New Orleans *Bee*, January 8, 1836. The *Teche* evidently discontinued its runs on the *Teche* because the list of arrivals of vessels in the Port of New Orleans lists that steamer arriving from Natchitoches under Captain Rachal. The *Daily Picayune*, January 31, 1837. By June 22 of that year, one Benoist was captain of the *Teche*, and, on July 20, Dalman brought her in from Shreveport. *Ibid.*, June 22, July 20, 1837. In 1841, the *Teche* was still plying the Mississippi between "Baton Rouge and all intermediate places." L. Hooper was master. The *Daily Picayune*, July 6, 1841. January 3, 1842, the *Daily Picayune* announced that the *Teche* would commence regular trips to St. Martinville (via Plaquemine).

John Dough made his will in Franklin, March 15, 1842, and died December 12 of that year. St. Mary Parish Estate No. 487. His wife, Nancy Best, died soon after. Her succession was filed March 18, 1842. St. Mary Parish Estate No. 495.

In 1845, the *Teche* was back on the Mississippi River. Steamers plying the *Teche* trade that year were advertised as *The Belle of Attakapas*, Capt. C. Johnson; *Judge McLean*, M. W. Hinkle; *Waverly*, J. V. Singer. In 1846, *Frankland*, W. S. Carey, was added. In 1847, the Franklin *Planters' Banner* advertised the *Saranak*, G. Ratier; *St. Mary*, D. Muggah; *Belle Isle*, Joseph Labarthe; *St. Helena*, A. McGowen; *Kentucky*, R. C. Strother; and *Billow*, Capt. Pritchard. *Planters' Banner*, April-July, 1845.

The *Teche* was built in 1888 in Jeffersonville, Indiana, by Lloyd T. Belt, who, with Captain W. T. Jones, ran her between New Orleans and Bayou Teche for about five years. They then sold her to Captain C. J. Blanchard and Captain Max Blanchard, Jr., and others, and she was placed in Bayou Lafourche trade. Last spring the vessel was purchased by A. E. Blackmar, and upon the opening of this season's business, she was again entered into the *Teche* trade as a regular packet under the management of the Blanchards. Last summer she was repaired and was then thought to be in first-class condition.

Ranked as one of the best sugar boats of the port, the *Teche* was 190 feet long with 38-foot beam and 5-foot hold. She had three steel boilers 24 feet long and 44 inches in diameter and engines with 16-inch cylinders and 7-foot stroke.

Officers in charge of the steamer at the time of the disaster were C. J. Blanchard, master; Paul Grevemberg and Joe Lagrone, clerks; Edgar Blanchard and Walker Johnson, pilots; Louis Gateschair, mate; James Jourdan and Charles DeBinder, engineers; Oscar Antoine, steward; and Peter Keveney, carpenter.

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#### PROGRESS OF THE RAILROAD\*

With the return of good weather, work on the track of the Morgan Louisiana and Texas railroad has been resumed with great vigor, and has reached New Iberia as our paper goes to press. There are, we judge, about one hundred men now employed on the road bed divided into three parties - the first, who level and prepare the track some distance ahead of the train; a second party follow and complete the work of the first, and the third and last party are accompanied by the construction train and they lay tires and rails in sections of about sixty feet at a time. As the rails and tires are bolted, the train follows up the working gangs and the road thus progresses steadily at the rate of nearly half a mile a day.

Meantime, another gain of men are working ahead, between New Iberia and Vermilionville, clearing up the track, building bridges, etc. We see no reason to doubt the completion of the Morgan road to Vermilionville by the specified time, November 1st and news which reach us from the Louisiana Western division is equally encouraging, for nothing has there occurred to stop work from the day it first began. Our anxious citizens will soon have the pleasure of seeing at least four daily passenger trains pass their doors, making the trip between New Orleans and Houston, and perhaps two or three times that number of freight trains, such are the present needs of commerce.

\*New Iberia Sugar Bowl, August 21, 1879.

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# Aurora Borealis in St. Landry

By Keith S. Hambrick

In late August and early September, 1859, many persons in the United States were treated to spectacular views of the northern lights. Newspapers in such diverse areas as New Orleans, Louisville, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Columbus, Ohio, and even Havana, Cuba, all reported the phenomenon and its side effects. It appeared to be as bright in the South and tropics as in the northern areas.

The lights interrupted normal telegraphic communication at all points and there were strong electrical currents observed on some wires to which no batteries were attached. These currents were manageable and allowed operators in several cities to send messages over the wires and have them received correctly.

These lights were seen in the Attakapas and Opelousas country. Here is how those "merry dancers of the North," as the sailors called them, were reported by the *Opelousas Patriot* of September 3, 1859.

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Weather, Phenomenon, Health.—Last Sunday was one of the most oppressive days of the summer, the thermometer from 10 o'clock A.M. to 4 P.M., ranging in the coolest positions as high as 95°.

At about half past eight o'clock at night a most singular phenomenon presented itself in the horizon between North-west and North-east. A most brilliant crimson light seemed to radiate from behind a large bank of cloud lying between the points above indicated, and extended towards the zenith as high as 45° from the horizon. These radiations were divided by alternate opaque tints and lasted for about fifteen minutes. During its appearance a great many of our citizens gazed in wonder and astonishment, some regarding it as an Aurora Borealis, others as an omen of direful import, and we heard of a nervous lady in town, who being under the impression that the end of all things terrestrial was at hand, resigned herself to meet the impending dissolution and advised others to do likewise. Shortly after the disappearance of this remarkable phenomenon, a light breeze sprang up, rendering the balance of the night agreeable and pleasant. Early next morning and during the day we had several fine showers, which were much needed for the

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maturing crops. On Tuesday morning a brisk and cool norther broke out and for several succeeding days the weather was decidedly cool for the season.

The sudden transitions for the past two weeks have been the source of considerable sickness in our parish.

N. B.—The phenomenon above alluded to was again visible on Thursday night, making its appearance at about 11 o'clock, in a most brilliant red belt, directly in the zenith, about 90° wide, extending from East to West. During its appearance from 11 o'clock P.M. to 5 o'clock A.M. many of our citizens were aroused from their slumber under the impression that an awful conflagration was raging in some part of town. Such was the brilliancy afforded by this phenomenon, that a pin could have been distinctly seen on the floor of many rooms. Outside the light was as brilliant as that afforded by a full moon in a clear sky. This vast belt seemed to have a vibratory motion from South West to North East. We cannot offer any theory for this remarkable spectacle in the Heavens.

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## Lost and Found



This French *denier* shows on one side the bust of Louis XIV and on the other, the designation, King of France and Navarre, with the date 1671, split by the *fleur-de-lis*. Larry Sampey of Patterson, La., found the old coin behind his residence at 418 Main Street. Sampey was raking the recently dredged earth on the edge of Bayou Teche when he spotted the silver coin.

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# A Catholic Church for Ville Platte, Louisiana

Translated and submitted by Elba Anthony Dardeau, Jr. \*

Decembre 6, 1845

Par acte passé devant P. LABICHE, notaire public dans et pour la paroisse St. Landry, en date de ce jour, les sieurs Edouard DARDEAU<sup>2</sup> et Martin ROUSSEAU,<sup>3</sup> tous deux demeurant à la Ville Platte,<sup>4</sup> dans cette dite paroisse, ont fait donation pure et simple, et ce dans la vue de faciliter la construction d'une église Catholique dans le quartier de la Ville Platte, au Révérend Jean François RAVIOL, curé de la paroisse de St. Landry, quatrevingt-dixhuit pieds de face (par le Sr. E. DARDEAU) et dixhuit pieds (du Sr. Martin ROUSSEAU), faisant ensemble cent seize pieds de face au chem public de la Ville Platte menant des Opelousas au Bayou Chicot, sur la profondeur voulue pour faire deux arpens (*sic*) de superficie bornés d'un côté par le dit E. DARDEAU et de l'autre par le dit M. ROUSSEAU.

Cette donation est faite et acceptée sous les clauses et conditions qu'une église catholique sera construite sur les quatrevingt-dixhuit pieds de face donnés par le Sr. E. DARDEAU. Et il est bien entendu que faire en assure l'indépendance et la desination sacrée,

\* Elba Anthony Dardeau, Jr., a descendant of Edouard Dardeau and a member of Attakapas Historical Association, lives at 12 Crestwood, Vicksburg, MS., 39180.

1. Taken from the donation records of the St. Landry Parish Courthouse, Opelousas, Louisiana, No. 79, entitled "Edouard Dardeau et Martin Rousseau a Jean F. Raviol," and dated December 6, 1845. Thanks to Mr. Allen J. Richard, deputy clerk, Clerk of Court's Office, for transmitting a copy of the original French act to this writer in a letter dated January 24, 1980. Records of the church built on this land, Sacred Heart, began in 1845. The town of Ville Platte was incorporated in 1858.

2. Edouard Alphonse Ferdinand Dardeau, the son of Andre and Rosalie Bourderjou, was born in Selles-sur-cher, department of Loire-et-cher, France, on January 14, 1807, at 7 p.m. He departed the port of Bordeaux for Louisiana in February 1831. He received his American citizenship on November 23, 1840. He died in Ville Platte on August 17, 1860. For more on Edouard (including the documentation of the above date), his two marriages, his antecedents, and his descendants, see the following:

a. Elba Anthony Dardeau, Jr., "Seven Generations of the Dardeau Family, ca. 1757-1980," *Louisiana Genealogical Register*, XXVII (1980), 255-262.

b. Rene-Pierre Dardeau and Elba Anthony Dardeau, Jr., "Familles Dardeau de France, Cote Edouard et Alexandre, Partis en Louisiane," *Louisiana Genealogical Register*, XXVIII (1981), 240-243.

c. Elba Anthony Dardeau, Jr., "The Dardeau Manuscript, An Important Key to Research on the Dardeau Family in Louisiana and Its French Origins," submitted to *La Voix des Prairies* for publication.

3. Martin Rousseau, son of Louis and Therese Burkin, married December 1843 Sarah Ann Jacks, daughter of J. D. and Eliza Beu (Opelousas Courthouse Marriage No. 84). He died in Ville Platte on August 21, 1860, at the age of 48 years (Opelousas church death records, vol. II, p. 125). His succession (No. 2371) at the Opelousas courthouse is dated September 18, 1860. Rousseau's descendants can be followed in various volumes of *Southwest Louisiana Records* by Rev. Donald J. Hebert.

4. In this document, the name, "Ville Platte," is spelled "Ville Platte." "Plate" is actually the correct French feminine form of the adjective "flat".

le dit Révérend Jean François RAVIOL prendra avec Mgr. l'Evêque toutes les mesures commandées par la discipline diocésaine pour que la présente donation ne soit point personnelle soit au Révérend Jean F. RAVIOL soit à Mgr. l'Evêque actuel, soit à ses successeurs.

*English Translation*

December 6, 1845

By means of an act carried out before P. LABICHE, notary public in and for the parish of St. Landry, Messrs. Edouard DARDEAU and Martin ROUSSEAU, both living in Ville Platte, in this named parish, have made a donation pure and simple, and this with the intention of aiding in the construction of a Catholic church in the district of Ville Platte, to the Reverend Jean François RAVIOL, pastor of the parish of St. Landry, ninety-eight feet of frontage (by Mr. E. DARDEAU) and eighteen feet (by Mr. Martin ROUSSEAU), making a combined total of one hundred sixteen feet of frontage on the public road of Ville Platte *midway between* (?) Opelousas and Bayou Chicot, comprising an area of two superficial arpents, bounded on one side by the said E. DARDEAU and on the other by the said Mr. ROUSSEAU.

This donation is made and accepted under the clauses and conditions that a Catholic church will be constructed on the ninety-eight feet of frontage given by Mr. E. DARDEAU and it is agreed that to assure the independence and the consecrated intention, the said Reverend Jean François RAVIOL will follow with his excellency the Bishop, all the measure ordered by diocesan discipline in order that the present donation will not be personal to either the Reverend Jean F. RAVIOL or to his excellency the Bishop, or to their successors.



*ST. LOUIS HOTEL,*

NEW IBERIA\*

Mrs. Louisa Stuart begs leave to inform her friends and the public in general that she has just opened, in New Iberia, the splendid and far-famed St. Louis Hotel, formerly kept by Mr. Louis Miguez. The travellers who will stop at her Hotel may rest assured that nothing will be spared for their comfort; and she feels confident that all those who may patronize her, will be satisfied. The cookery leaves nothing to be desired [*sic*] and the cellar is stored with wines which will please the most dainty-mouthed connoisseur. She flatters herself to obtain a large share of the public's patronage, and promises to the ladies to please them by leaving them nothing to desire.

New Iberia, November 18th, 1865.

\*From *The Opelousas Courier*, November 25, 1865.

CENSUS OF THE WHITE POPULATION  
OF OPELOUSAS

T. D. COOK, ENUMERATOR

Householder	Age	Relationship to Householder	Occupation	Person's place of Birth	Father's place of Birth	Mother's place of Birth
Kaufman, Simon	60		Retail Merchant	Bavaria	Bavaria	Alsace
Eliza	37	Wife	Housekpr.	Bavaria	Bavaria	Bavaria
Nathan J.	19	Son	Clerk	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Ferdinand	9	Son	At School	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Ida	7	Daughter	At School	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Harry	2	Son	At Home	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Cora M.	10	Niece	At School	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Arthur	9	Nephew	At School	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Bertha	5	Niece	At Home	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Dietlien, Christopher	54		Retail Grocer	Bavaria	Bavaria	Bavaria
Mary	48	Wife	Housekpr.	Bavaria	Bavaria	Bavaria
Mary	19	Daughter	At Home	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Antoine	18	Son	Clerk	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Mark	12	Son	At School	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Alice	9	Daughter	At School	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Frederick	6	Son	At School	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Chrisman, Margaret	80	Mother in law	At Home	Bavaria	Bavaria	Bavaria
Hebrard, Louise	57		Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Rosa L.	28	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Corinne	22	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Nina	20	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Sidney	18	Son	Clerk	La.	La.	La.
Gabrielle	14	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	La.
Taylor, E. Sumpter	36		Druggist	La.	La.	La.
Alice S.	23	Wife	Housekpr.	N. C.	S. C.	Md.
Constance	12	Daughter	At School	La.	N. C.	Va.
Mary T.	4	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Alice	7m	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	N. C.
Chrisman, Antoine	50		Unoccupied	Bavaria	Bavaria	Bavaria
Melvina	43	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Fannie	22	Daughter	At Home	La.	Bavaria	La.
Justine	18	Daughter	At Home	La.	Bavaria	La.
Josephine	16	Daughter	At Home	La.	Bavaria	La.

Rosa	14	Daughter	At School	La.	Bavaria	La.
Abraham	12	Son	At School	La.	Bavaria	La.
Robert B.	3	Son	At Home	La.	Bavaria	La.
Pepperkorn, Mrs. Baptiste	28		Housekpr.	Baden	Baden	Baden
Hls, Christiana	60	Mother	At Home	Baden	Baden	Baden
Herr, Louisa	18	Adopted Daughter	At Home	La.	Baden	Baden
Littell, Alice	41			La.	S. C.	Md.
Maud	12	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	La.
Henrietta	9	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	La.
Henderson	7	Son	At School	La.	La.	La.
Jewell T.	4	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Henrietta	71	Mother in law	At Home	N. Y.	Hanover	N. Y.
McKinney, K. J.	54		Housekpr.	Ala.	S. C.	Va.
Gillet, Elizabeth	42	Stepdaughter	At Home	Ala.	Ga.	Ala.
Polers, Samuel	33		Brick Layer	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Mary S.	41	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Richard, Joe	36	Brother in law	Peddling	La.	La.	La.
Carla	10	Niece	At School	La.	La.	La.
Alice	8	Niece	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Oscar	5	Nephew	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Bertha	3	Niece	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Claude, Julien	39		Retail Merchant	France	France	France
Ursule	29	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	France	France
Perrodin, Jules	60		Retail Merchant	France	France	France
Nna	49	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Rose	13	Daughter	At School	La.	France	La.
Jacques	10	Son	At School	La.	France	La.
Pepperkorn, Emile	29		Bar Tender	La.	-	-
Lucy	28	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Jacob	6	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Ida	5	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
George	2	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Corinne	17	Sister	At Home	La.	-	-

Householder	Age	Relationship to Householder	Occupation	Person's place of Birth	Father's place of Birth	Mother's place of Birth
Pasquez, Joseph	72		Retail Merchant	France	France	France
Mary	66	Wife	Housekpr.	France	France	France
Morris	42	Son	At Home	Ohio	France	France
Williams, Austin B.	24		Printer	La.	La.	La.
Maggie	19	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Hays, Clarence L.	26		Deputy Sheriff	La.	La.	La.
Jos. M.	23	Brother	Deputy Sheriff	La.	La.	La.
Jackson, Ida E.	29	Sister	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Virginia	9	Niece	At School	La.	La.	La.
James C.	7	Nephew	At School	La.	La.	La.
Chevis, Henry B.	21	Boarder	At School	La.	La.	La.
William C.	18	Boarder	At School	La.	La.	La.
Richard, Eugene B.	18	Boarder	At School	La.	La.	La.
Guldry, Constance	46		Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Amella	32	Niece	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Alcee	18	Son	At School	La.	La.	La.
Leoner	12	Son	At School	La.	La.	La.
Alida	10	Son	At School	La.	La.	La.
McDaniel, Eli	33		Saloon Kpr.	La.	La.	La.
Ageli	29	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Dallas	8	Son	At School	La.	La.	La.
Neli	5	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Isaure	3	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Lydia	1	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Arsine, Gonor	64	Mother in law	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Sandoz, Clarisse	53		Housekpr.	La.	Germany	Mo.
Walton	30	Son in law	Druggist.	La.	Switz.	La.
Adeline	28	Daughter	At Home	La.	Switz.	La.
Fritz	8	Grandchild	At School	La.	La.	La.
May	5	Grandchild	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Morgan	3	Grandchild	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Claudius	1	Grandchild		La.	La.	La.
Wble, Mathew	14	Boarder	At School	La.	La.	La.

Morrell, Warren	20	Boarder	Piano Repairs	La.	N. Y.	Mo.
Demorais, Louis	35	Wife	Postmaster	Canada	Canada	Canada
Natalie	36	Son	Housekpr.	La.	France	La.
L'Octave	9	Adopted Daughter	At School	La.	Canada	La.
Mary	14		At School	La.	La.	La.
Perkins, Samuel	32		Livery Stable Keeper	Mo.	Mo.	Mo.
May	19	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Bavaria	Bavaria
Block, Joseph	47		Retail Merchant	Alsace	Alsace	Alsace
Bertha	33	Wife	Housekpr.	Bavaria	Bavaria	Bavaria
Albert	13	Son	At School	La.	Alsace	Bavaria
Eugene	11	Son	At School	La.	Alsace	Bavaria
Julia	9	Daughter	At School	La.	Alsace	Bavaria
Edgar	5	Son	At Home	La.	Alsace	Bavaria
Esiger, Mary	56		Seamstress	France	France	France
Ventre, Alphonse	30	Son in law	Peëdler	France	France	France
Melanie	28	Daughter	Housekpr.	La.	France	La.
Homer	8	Son (adopted ?)	At School	La.	France	La.
Eugene	?	Son (adopted ?)	At Home	La.	France	La.
Charles	?	Son (adopted ?)	At Home	La.	France	La.
Alice	?	Daughter (adopted ?)	At Home	La.	France	La.
Harrison, Sarah F.	39		Housekpr.	Ky.	Ky.	Ky.
Emma	16	Daughter	At Home	Miss.	Ky.	Ky.
Mary	14	Daughter	At School	Miss.	Miss.	Ky.
Mason, Lorrinda	63		Housekpr.	La.	Va.	Va.
Medicis, John	47		Brick Mason	New Chatel	New Chatel	New Chatel
Agemar	47	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Charles	13	Grandchild	At School	La.	La.	La.
Henry L.	8?	Grandchild	At School	La.	La.	La.
Ida	11	Grandchild	At School	Switz.	Switz.	Switz.
Combe, ?	45		At Home	La.	La.	La.
Durlliero, Urmen	59	Mother in law	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Perry, Lilly	14	Step Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Alice	12	Step Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.



Householder	Age	Relationship to Householder	Occupation	Person's place of Birth	Father's place of Birth	Mother's place of Birth
Willy	9	Step Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Pasquoz, Laurent	56		Retail Merchant	France	France	France
Gynthia	45	Wife	Housekpr.	Ohio	Md.	Md.
Feclex, Mary J.	25	Orphaned	Housekpr.	La.	Ohio	Ireland
?	17		Gerk	La.	Poland	Prussia
?, Abraham	26		Gerk	Alsace	Alsace	Alsace
Vatter, Louis	60		Cabinet Maker	France	France	France
Sophy	58	Wife	Housekpr.	France	France	France
Louis	24	Son	At Home	France	France	France
Albert	22	Son	Farm Labor	La.	France	France
Sophy	16	Daughter	At Home	La.	France	France
Arthur	15	Son	At School	La.	France	France
Lavergne, Micheal	38		At Home	La.	La.	La.
Maria	30	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Delia	12	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	La.
Mary	10	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	La.
Rosa	5	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Solomon	3	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Gilbert	2m	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Latour, Homer	47		At Home	La.	France	La.
Emelie	40	Wife	Housekpr.	Ohio	France	France
Emiley	18	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	Ohio
Alice	13	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	Ohio
Lufague, Jean	30		Butcher	France	France	France
Lectine	23	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	France	Italy
Elouise	3	Daughter	At Home	La.	France	La.
Gustave	1	Son	At Home	La.	France	La.
Mustere, John	55		Baker	France	France	France
Elizabeth	42	Wife	Housekpr.	France	France	France
Morret, Marie	9	Adopted	At School	La.	France	France
Albert	6	Adopted	At Home	La.	France	France
Jacobs, Henry	34		Retail Grocer	Prussia	Prussia	Prussia
Rosalie	24	Wife	Housekpr.	Prussia	Prussia	Prussia

(To Be Continued)

# Book Reviews

THE VIGILANCE COMMITTEES OF THE ATTAKAPAS: *An Eyewitness Account of Banditry and Backlash in Southwestern Louisiana*. By Alexandre Barde. Edited and Annotated by David C. Edmonds and Dennis A. Gibson. Translated by Henrietta Guilbeau Rogers. (Lafayette, La.: Acadiana Press, 1981. 307 pp. Maps, illustrations, index. Cloth. \$19.95.)

In the 1850s, gangs of hoodlums and cutthroats terrorized the citizens of Southwest Louisiana. These outlaws rustled stock, robbed and beat travelers, and murdered at least one victim. They even destroyed large sections of some towns through arson. Although many of these criminals were caught and brought to trial, sympathetic juries either gave them lenient sentences or freed them.

Outraged by these atrocities, honest citizens took the law into their own hands and formed vigilante committees. They were determined to rid their homeland of the bandits once and for all. Despite condemnation by the courts, the governor, and several newspapers, the vigilantes tracked down, captured, tried, and punished the lawbreakers. In most cases punishment consisted of whipping and exile. Failure to comply with the exile order could result in recapture and execution.

On September 3, 1859, at Bayou Queue de Tortue on the western border of Lafayette Parish (near the approach to present-day Rayne), six hundred vigilantes surrounded the anti-vigilante forces in the fortified house and store of Emilien Lagrange. Hopelessly outnumbered, the anti-vigilantes surrendered and accepted their punishment, thereby restoring peace to the Attakapas Prairie.

In response to the unfavorable publicity their extra-legal actions received in several local newspapers, the various committee captains instructed one vigilante, Alexandre Barde, to publish the "truth." Barde, a brilliant French journalist in exile, completed his assignment and published this work in 1861. Written in typical mid-nineteenth century partisan journalistic style, the work provides a fascinating tale about a little known period in Louisiana history. Thanks to Barde's detailed descriptions, the reader receives an excellent view of the land, the towns, and the unique life style of the people of this frontier region.

Readers of this journal who are familiar with Carl Brasseaux's work in this area will find this an interesting *apologia* of the vigilante committees. They will also understand why the description of individual vigilantes makes them appear to be only one step from sainthood, while their victims are depicted as devils incarnate. Barde's attitudes of paternalism and racism, which appear in his description of the slave and free black victims of the vigilantes will offend many readers.

Because of its obvious partisanship, this work was virtually lost to posterity immediately after its original publication. Relatives and friends of the victims destroyed all available copies. Fortunately, a few copies survived. This edition is based on Henrietta Guilbeau Rogers' 1936 translation of one of the few extant books.

Professors Edmonds and Gibson have provided historians and genealogists with a useful resource. Their decision to annotate the work greatly enhances its value.

WEEKS HALL: *The Master of the Shadows*. By Morris Raphael. (Detroit: Harlo Press, 1981. 207 pp. Acknowledgments, prologue, epilogue, genealogy, references, bibliography, index. Cloth. \$14.95).

When Morris Raphael first told me of his intention to do a biography of Weeks Hall, I congratulated him but expressed the thought that he had selected a difficult subject. After reading *Weeks Hall: The Master of the Shadows*, I am convinced that the biographer was dealing with a difficult, almost illusive, subject.

The biography is based largely on research gathered through taped interviews with friends, relatives, and acquaintances of the late Weeks Hall. Mr. Raphael, an amateur historian, is to be complimented for using this technique so well in constructing the story of this well-known Louisianian. It is unfortunate, however, that the author, himself, did not have an intimate knowledge of his subject, based upon interviews with Hall while he was alive, or access to a corpus of primary source materials generated by Hall, such as letters, diaries, or other writings.

The result, of course, is that the book is really two dimensional. It lacks depth—substance. Throughout the work we see, largely through the eyes and memories of others, the outer Hall; that is, the image cast by Hall for the benefit of others. It is a frivolous, capricious image which does not allow the reader to know the real Hall. We read of his lengthy conversations with the great and near-great, but never are the subjects of those talks revealed. We know that Hall brooded, but what was he brooding about? He must have had confidants, either among his servants or among friends and relatives, with whom he bared his soul. There had to be a real man behind the antics and cardboard facade which are presented.

There are, in the opinion of this reviewer, some good moments in the book. The relationship between Hall and jazz-great Bunk Johnson is particularly interesting and worthy of further investigation. The story of Hall's constant struggle to be assured that the Shadows would survive after he was gone, although at times somewhat disconnected, is nevertheless one of the truly important aspects of the man's life and this biography.

Morris Raphael undertook a difficult task that perhaps many other researchers and writers would have abandoned along the way. He nevertheless forged ahead and today we have an interesting account of Weeks Hall, the last master of the Shadows.

University of Southwestern Louisiana

Glenn R. Conrad

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Editor's Note: Robert F. Schmalz, whose article "Music in Plantation Society: St. Martinville in the 19th Century" appeared in the Spring 1982 issue of *Attakapas Gazette*, is associate professor of music history at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

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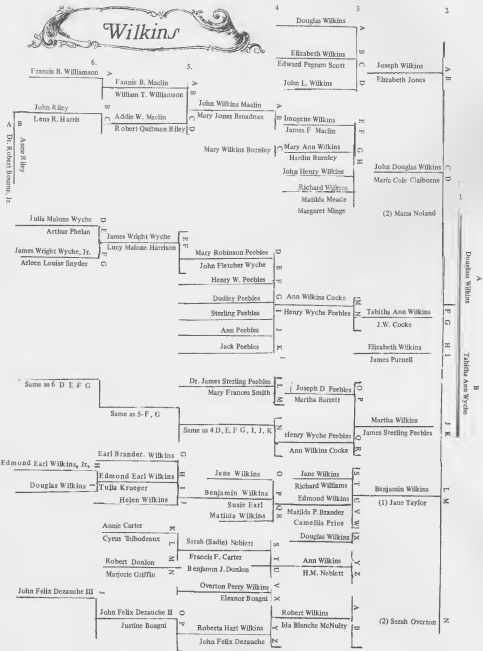
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*Wilkins*



# Virginians In The Teche Country

by

Glenn R. Conrad

(Continued from Vol. XVII, No. 2)

## PART III

### THE HEIRS OF JOHN D. WILKINS

(continued)

On July 15, 1847, Hardin Burnley bought some land in Assumption Parish from Mary Clara Moore, the widow of David Weeks.<sup>1</sup> Then, on May 12, 1856, he acquired additional property from Philip and Mathias Rivero and Domingo Falcon, resulting in a plantation totalling about 650 acres.<sup>2</sup> The strange aspect of Burnley's purchases is that they were for a sugar plantation in an isolated area of Assumption Parish, at the confluence of Bayous Natchez and Goddell.<sup>3</sup>

In 1852, Burnley defaulted on a note he owed Robert Patterson and Company and his creditor brought suit against him, resulting in the seizure of his plantation. On March 5, 1853, Augustus Franklin Hickman, sheriff of Assumption Parish, auctioned the property at public sale. Burnley secured sufficient funds to purchase the plantation for \$14,287.<sup>4</sup> For the remainder of the 1850s he continued to produce sugar, operating his plantation with from 14 to 41 slaves.<sup>5</sup>

As with so many successful antebellum sugar planters, the Civil War and its aftermath spelled disaster. Hardin Burnley's story, however, is not one of a plantation seized by

1. St. Mary Conveyance Book J, p. 68.

2. See Assumption Parish, La., Vendee Index for date of this sale and Sheriff Sales Book 3 (1841 - 1856), p. 204, for amount of acreage.

3. See Assumption Parish Book of Adjudication 13 (1860-1877) for a description of the property. In these records Bayou Goddell is sometimes referred to as "Bayou Go-to-Hell." The remote and isolated nature of this plantation in the Atchafalaya Swamp is confirmed by the fact that in 1860 Burnley did not own a horse. Much of his travelling must have been by boat.

4. Part of this loan may have been secured by the mortgage of the slaves which Burnley's daughter inherited from her grandfather. These came into Burnley's hands, as tutor of his daughter, on February 9, 1853. Moreover, on March 21, 1853, occurred the sale of John D. Wilkins' estate. Mary Burnley's share of the proceeds would have been in excess of \$20,000. By borrowing from his daughter's inheritance, Burnley could have easily paid off his \$14,000 debt. For the details of Mary Burnley's inheritance, see St. Mary Parish Probate Record Book 1849-1852, pp. 648, 671.

5. In 1860, of the approximately 650 acres he owned, Burnley had improved 175. That same year he had 41 slaves on the plantation.

Burnley's sugar operation seems to have been typical for the area in which he lived. His first crop of sugar was made in 1853 and resulted in 98 hogheads of sugar (1,100 lbs. per hoghead). His best crop was produced in 1858, the year that Assumption Parish sugar production surpassed for the first time the production of the excellent crop year of 1853. The overall parish production in 1858 was 9% above the 1853 figure. Burnley's production in 1858, however, exceeded his 1853 production by slightly more than 100%. Even if one considers that he may have brought additional land into production, it seems unlikely that he doubled the amount of improved land in less than four years (the seed cane for the 1858 crop would have been planted in 1857). Production figures are taken from Champomier, *Statement of the Sugar Crop*, for the years 1853 to 1858.

carpetbaggers, nor is it a tale of a plantation lost to the auctioneer's block for taxes. Burnley's story, though only partially documented, is truly unusual.

Hardin Burnley continued to operate his plantation at the confluence of Bayous Natchez and Goddell ("Go-to-Hell") during most of the Civil War.<sup>6</sup> The conflict did not come to the quiet, peaceful countryside of Assumption Parish until the fall of 1862. At that time the parish, but more particularly the towns along Bayou Lafourche were occupied by Federal troops.<sup>7</sup> Following occupation, a Union command post was set up at Napoleonville, and the Sixteenth Indiana Mounted Infantry and Company C of the Twelfth Illinois Cavalry were stationed there.

The Federal army might easily occupy and pacify the plantation country along Bayou Lafourche, but the western edge of the parish would prove to be a different matter. This area of the parish formed part of the eastern periphery of the great Atchafalaya Swamp, with its maze of rivers and bayous and jungle-like appearance. Here, the unwary intruder could swiftly fall victim to any one of nature's many whims.<sup>8</sup> Scattered across the swamp, however, were areas of high ground, virtual islands, which had been cleared in the years before the war. Hardin Burnley's plantation was located on one of these islands.<sup>9</sup>

As Union forces occupied the Lafourche and Teche valleys in 1862 and 1863, many Confederate soldiers fell back into the swamp, regrouped into guerrilla units and continued to harass the Union occupiers down to the day the war ended. The role of the guerrillas took on added significance following the fall of the land bridge between Vicksburg and Port Hudson that linked the eastern two-thirds of the Confederacy with the trans-Mississippi states. With the fall of these fortresses in the summer of 1863, it was the guerrillas who maintained a communications network between the Confederate segments. Military orders, mail, and contraband flowed freely on a path through the Lake Maurepas swamp, across the Mississippi in the vicinity of Donaldsonville, and into the Atchafalaya Swamp.<sup>10</sup>

As the guerrillas established this communications network, they also established among the "island" plantations a support system of way stations where couriers and guerrilla fighters could rest and refresh themselves while pursuing their goals. Burnley's plantation would become a major stop on the Confederate underground.

6. There is every reason to believe that of the four cane crops produced during the war years, Burnley lost only that of 1865 for a certainty. For details, see below.

7. For a brief account of the Lafourche campaign, see William Arceneaux, *Acadian General: Alfred Mouton and the Civil War*, 2nd ed. (Lafayette, La., 1981), pp. 53-65.

8. The standard account of the war in Louisiana is John Winters, *The Civil War in Louisiana* (Baton Rouge, 1963). His account of guerrilla activities in the Donaldsonville-Napoleonville area is found on p. 411.

9. That the swamp posed a real problem, logistically and defensively, for the Union occupiers is found in the statement of Brig. Gen. T. W. Sherman at New Orleans to Capt. B. B. Cameron, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General of the La Fourche District: "This seems to be intricate country, and I am endeavoring to get a good topography of it. It has been thus far very little understood. None of the maps I have give anything of correct indications of the practicable roads. . . ." T. W. Sherman to B. B. Cameron, August 27, 1864, in *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, D. C., 1880-1900), Series I, XLI, Part 1, 260. Hereafter cited as *O. R.*

10. For an account of one of these "island plantations" in the Atchafalaya Basin, see Carl Brasseaux, ed., "The Glory Days: E. T. King Recalls the Civil War Years," *Atakapas Gazette*, XI (1976), 3-33.

11. For Union reports and correspondence concerning the activities of the guerrillas in the area of Assumption Parish, see *O. R.*, XLI, pt. 1, 180-182; *ibid.*, pt. 3, 42, 64; and *ibid.*, XLVIII, pt. 1, 175-176.



As soon after the Union occupation as was practical, many Atchafalaya plantation owners took the path of allegiance to the United States and even secured Union safeguards against the seizure of their property. With this blind in place, the planters returned home, continued to operate their plantations as before, but now began aiding and abetting the Confederate guerrillas.<sup>11</sup>

Guerrilla raids against the Federal forces began almost immediately after the occupation of the Lafourche region and intensified after the Union victories at Vicksburg and Port Hudson. By the summer and fall of 1864, guerrilla raids were no longer just a nuisance, were becoming a threat to some Union positions along the Lafourche.

On July 29, 1864, Union pickets between Paincourtville and Lake Natchez were attacked by an estimated fifty-six Confederates. Although General Cameron, commander of the Lafourche District, reported losses taken by Confederates, he did not mention Union casualties, nor did he mention whether the Southerners had made off with Union supplies. The fact that the guerrillas were a concern of General Cameron is found, nevertheless, in the action he proposed to take against them:

I have ordered Colonel Davis, at Napoleonville, to push them with his whole available force, and to drive them across Grand River. I am holding the Sixteenth Mounted Infantry and a section of artillery ready here if he needs re-enforcements.<sup>12</sup>

The failure to achieve his goal was reported by Col. Davis in an account of his action. The report ends with the terse sentence: "No trace of the enemy."<sup>13</sup>

A large guerrilla raid on a Union scouting party near Napoleonville occurred on September 1. An estimated 300 Confederates took part in this foray and succeeded in capturing twenty Federal soldiers. They also took twenty to thirty horses. Their mission accomplished, the Southerners fell back along Bayou Natchez and, within a short time, vanished into the swamp.

This Confederate activity alarmed local Union officers sufficiently to cause them to organize a joint army-navy expedition to scour the eastern periphery of the Atchafalaya Swamp, particularly the area around Bayou Natchez, Bayou Goddell, and Bay Natchez.

11. A good example of this duplicity, which Union commanders suspected but seldom succeeded in uncovering, is found in the report of a Union officer on an expedition to one of the secluded plantations.

In obedience to your order I would state that while on my return from an expedition through Belle River and Bayou Go-to-Hell, I landed at the Gross plantation for the purpose of killing beef for my command. . . . The proprietor stated that he was a good loyal citizen, showing me the oath of allegiance that he had taken; also a safeguard stating that no officer or soldier should molest anything belonging to him. . . . The negro quarters were well supplied with U. S. blankets. . . . While getting the beef on board I questioned several of the negroes, one of whom informed me that his master was like all the rest of the citizens in that vicinity, a rebel who had taken the oath of allegiance for his own benefit. . . .

This excerpt is from Dudley C. Wyman, Captain, Company G, Eleventh Wisconsin Infantry, to Capt. Frederic Speed, Assistant Adjutant-General, Defenses of New Orleans, Oct. 8, 1864, *O. R.*, XLI, pt. 3, 701-702.

12. Brig. General Robert A. Cameron to Capt. O. Matthews, Assistant Adjutant-General, Defenses of New Orleans, July 30, 1864, *O. R.*, XLI, pt. 1, 180.

13. Report of Col. Hasbrouk Davis, Twelfth Illinois Cavalry, Commanding Post of Napoleonville, La., July 30, 1864, *ibid.*, 181-182.

Throughout September and October, hundreds of Union soldiers and sailors combed these waterways in search of the guerrillas. They met, however, with little success, except to destroy all privately owned waterborne conveyances wherever they were found.<sup>14</sup>

As the Civil War was drawing to a close in the East, Union forces were still trying to deal effectively with the Atchafalaya guerrillas. On April 4, 1865, Lieut. Col. John Rice, commanding the Seventy-fifth U. S. Colored Troops, left the Morgan City area with 200 men and pushed into the swamp in search of guerrillas. At the mouth of Bayou St. Vincent, he heard rumors to the effect that the guerrilla leader, Capt. William A. Whittaker,<sup>15</sup> and his followers were preparing a raid along Bayou Lafourche. Rice decided to move immediately against Whittaker; but, his command being exhausted by the day's travel, the captain decided to wait until the next day to take up the chase.

Early on the morning of the 5th, Col. Rice learned that another Union detachment had dispersed Whittaker and his men.

This decided me to change my course, which I did at once, entering Little Bayou Natchez, which leads into Bay Natchez, and making all haste to reach Juanes' Landing before Whittaker, whom I believed to be retreating in that direction. On coming within two miles of [Hardin] Burnley's Landing, the point at which I expected to enter Bay Natchez, I found the bayou so narrow that the oars could not be worked. From this point I sent Lieutenant Steel with fifty men to surround Burnley's house and capture everybody on the premises. I had previously learned that cotton speculators, smugglers, mail carriers, Confederate quartermasters, etc., were wont to congregate at this house. Lieutenant Steel captured 1 lieutenant, 3 privates, 1 cotton speculator, 1 smuggler, and the proprietor, Mr. Burnley. . . . In the meantime with the rest of the command I pushed and dragged the boats about a mile farther, when the bayou ceased altogether. I then impressed Burnley's plantation teams and negroes and drew the boats across to Bay Natchez.<sup>16</sup>

Colonel Rice then continued to search for Whittaker until he discovered that once again the Confederate guerrilla leader had eluded him. On April 7, Rice, his command, and the prisoners taken at Burnley's plantation started the return to Bayou Boeuf Station (Amelia), arriving there late that afternoon.

Rice concluded his report with

I will explain my reasons for arresting the three citizens at Burnley's. W. C. Lawes is a cotton speculator . . . had been at Burnley's a month. . . . Arsene Simoneaud is charged with smuggling contraband goods by his neighbors and by his wife. H. Burnley harbors the whole gang; grinds corn for Whittaker; had in his house a large mail . . . and he must know who furnishes so many goods to Confederate officers who come to his house to receive them.<sup>17</sup>

14. For an account of these Union activities, see *ibid.*, 64, 134, 470, 701-702.

15. Capt. William A. Whittaker commanded Company C, 7th Louisiana Cavalry Regiment. He had originally enlisted as a private in Company D, 18th Louisiana Infantry Regiment. Booth, *Records*.

16. Report of Lieut. Col. John L. Rice, Seventy-fifth U. S. Colored Troops, April 8, 1865, *O. R.*, XLVIII, pt. 1, 175-177.

17. *Ibid.*

Thus, about a week before Appomattox, Hardin Burnley had been arrested for collaborating with the enemy. One can only speculate concerning Burnley's role in aiding the guerrillas, but that role must have been a significant one. Throughout the years of the guerrilla activity and the countermeasures taken by Union forces, the extant records seem to focus on the area of Bayou Natchez-Bayou Goddell. The fact that Burnley was able to delude the Union occupiers for such a long period of time is certainly a tribute to the man's devotion to his cause.

What transpired in Burnley's life during the nine months following his arrest has so far been impossible to determine. Was he tried and jailed? Was he fined? Certainly, aiding the enemy in wartime is a serious crime. It was Burnley's good fortune, however, that the war ended five days after his arrest and that may have made a difference in the Union case against him.<sup>18</sup>

At any rate, Burnley next appeared in New Orleans on January 4, 1866, at which time he borrowed \$14,239 from Samuel H. Kennedy and mortgaged his plantation as surety for the loan.<sup>19</sup>

The entire matter of this loan is baffling from several points of view. The amount borrowed in 1866 is remarkably similar to the amount Burnley paid for the plantation in 1853 when he bought back his seized property at a sheriff's sale. Possibly, he borrowed the money to put his plantation back into operation. But the question must be asked: Why borrow that amount of money for that purpose? The similar purchase price in 1853 included land and slaves. This time the land already belonged to him and there were no slaves to be bought. True, he would have needed farm animals and equipment, and possibly seed, but these could have been had for considerably less than the amount borrowed. Moreover, the full amount of the note was due two years after the loan. This seems to be an unusually short time to repay such a sizable loan. In normal times and with a good crop year, one might expect to repay \$7,100 per year for two years. But the postwar era was not a normal time, for if anything was obvious to all planters it was that the labor supply went from unreliable to non-existent.

Was the loan, then, for a purpose other than restoring the plantation? Possibly. It may have been to pay a fine in order to secure his freedom. It may also have been a debt he owed his daughter for money borrowed from her inheritance.

Whatever his reason, Burnley borrowed the money and returned to Assumption Parish. He must have returned to an absolutely devastated plantation, for three years later when the plantation was appraised preparatory to a sheriff's sale, it was valued at \$2,000.<sup>20</sup> The

18. The author's inquiry about a possible trial for Hardin Burnley brought the following response (dated December 17, 1981) from Robert B. Matchette, Navy and Old Army Branch, Military Archives Division, National Archives and Records Service:

We have checked the Union Provost Marshal's files on Confederate citizens in Record Group 109, War Department Collection of Confederate Records; the letters sent, registers of letters received, and registers of charges, prisoners, and trials in both the Southern Division of Louisiana and District of LaFourche, in Record Group 393, Records of U. S. Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920; and the registers of general courts-martial in Record Group 153, Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General, but found no reference to Hardin Burnley.

19. Kennedy was a commission merchant in New Orleans.

20. Assumption Parish, La., Succession no. 984.

devastation may in part have been man-made and in part an act of nature. Union soldiers or others could have been responsible for the damaged or destroyed plantation buildings, or the plantation and its buildings, including a sugar mill, may have been destroyed by the flood of 1865 and/or the flood of the following year.

On March 31, 1868, Samuel Kennedy brought suit against Hardin Burnley for non-payment of the loan secured by him two years previously.<sup>21</sup> This case was in progress when, on September 14, 1868, Burnley died.<sup>22</sup>

He apparently died alone, for his succession records reveal that neither relative nor friend came forward to administer his estate. Thus, shortly after Burnley's death, Hiram Carver, an Assumption Parish merchant, petitioned the district court to name him administrator of Burnley's estate so that his property could be sold and some of his debts paid. The court agreed, and ordered Louis U. Folse, a notary public, to appraise Burnley's plantation and possessions. Folse placed a value of \$2,000 on everything.<sup>23</sup>

In the meantime, the court appointed J. B. Whittington, a local attorney, to act as counsel for the absent heir, a "Miss Burnley of ----- County, Virginia." On February 19, 1869, Whittington informed the court that he had been unable to locate Mary Wilkins Burnley.<sup>24</sup>

The court had, three days before, ordered the sale of Burnley's plantation. On April 6, 1869, Pierre Gilbert, an auctioneer, placed the property in public sale. The highest (and apparently only) bid came from Samuel H. Kennedy. His bid was for \$2,000.

There ended the story of Hardin Burnley, whose life had touched the Wilkins family of Virginia and Louisiana.<sup>25</sup>

21. Assumption Parish Civil Suit No. 1690.

22. Assumption Parish Succession no. 984.

23. *Ibid.*

24. *Ibid.*

25. Several bits of information were gathered in the course of researching Burnley's career. He was the son of Hardin Burnley, Sr., and Mary Bell Jones. More information on the Burnley family can be found in William Ronald Cooke III, comp., *Hanover County Chancery Wills and Notes . . .* (Columbia, Va.: The Author, 1940), pp. 24-25. The author is indebted to Mary Elizabeth Sanders for providing this source.

The marriage records of Assumption Parish do not indicate a second marriage for Burnley. It would appear, therefore, that he did not remarry following Mary Ann Wilkins' death in the early 1830s. He was said to be unmarried at the time of his 1866 loan from Kennedy.

The same records do not indicate a local marriage for Burnley's daughter. Indeed, her name does not appear in any record of the parish, except in her father's succession.

The author has been unable to determine what became of Mary Wilkins Burnley following her grandfather's (John D. Wilkins) death. It is apparent from the probate proceedings of her father's estate that she was in Virginia in 1868.

## BENJAMIN WILKINS AND THE END OF AN ERA



*FOREST HOME, the house Benjamin Wilkins built, is on Bayou Fusilier, about two miles west of Arnaudville.*

It would be Benjamin Wilkins, the younger brother of John D. Wilkins, who would close the era of Virginians along the Teche and leave descendants who are still residents of the state.<sup>1</sup> Before he established himself in Louisiana, however, Benjamin Wilkins had experienced a remarkable career elsewhere.

When Douglass Wilkins died in 1802, Benjamin was but six years old. Nevertheless, the boy's father went to great lengths to spell out, and thereby protect, his youngest son's inheritance. The patrimony of the minor was placed in the hands of his mother until he reached the age of twelve years; thereafter, he was under the tutorship of his elder brother, John, until such time as he reached his majority.<sup>2</sup>

Nothing is known of Benjamin's education in Virginia, but it must have been sufficient to provide him with the foundation necessary to earn a medical degree, either from the College of William and Mary or from the Philadelphia School of Medicine.<sup>3</sup> After obtaining the medical degree, Benjamin attended classes at Edinburgh University in 1817-1818 and re-

1. The Dezauche family of Opelousas and New Orleans and the Carter and Donlon families of Lafayette are the only known descendants of the Wilkins family still residing in Louisiana.

2. For the provisions of Douglass Wilkins' will concerning his son Benjamin, see *Atiskapas Gazette*, XVII, 9.

3. Dr. Wilkins' obituary, which appears in the January 14, 1871, issue of the *Opelousas (La.) Courier*, erroneously states that he received his medical degree from Edinburgh University. Wilkins had already earned a medical degree when he attended the Scottish university for one session, 1817-1818. At that time he took classes in chemistry and physics. Dr. J. T. D. Hall, Keeper of Special Collections, Edinburgh University Library, to Glenn R. Conrad, April 8, 1982.

turned to Virginia in 1819. His presence there in that year is documented in the sale of his patrimony to John Wilkins on January 3, 1819.<sup>4</sup>

With the \$7,500 he received from the sale of his inherited property, Benjamin Wilkins launched a career that would span the next half century and take him to several states before he finally settled on the banks of Bayou Teche. His first adventure was set in the rolling hill country of western Kentucky. His attraction to the area was obvious for two reasons. In 1817, Benjamin's sister, Tabitha, and her husband, John Willis Cocke, moved to Christian County, Ky., and purchased from Henry Broadnax 375 acres of land on the Little River. There, Cocke subsequently established a tobacco farm, a distillery, and a sawmill.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, this area closely resembled that of Wilkins' Virginia homeland, not only in appearance but also in the fact that it was conducive to tobacco culture.<sup>6</sup>

Thus, in April, 1819, little more than three months after selling his Virginia estate, Benjamin arrived in Christian County and purchased 278 acres of land from John Pursley. This land, also located on the Little River, was probably near the Cocke place. A marginal notation on the conveyance states, "Delivered to owner, January 20, 1820,"<sup>7</sup> Benjamin may have, therefore, remained a guest of his sister and her husband until his newly acquired lands were ready for occupancy or he may have returned to Virginia to conclude his business affairs and gather up his slaves for removal to Kentucky.<sup>8</sup>

In March, 1820, and October, 1821, Benjamin bought a total of 110 additional acres from William and James Means.<sup>9</sup> Finally, in 1829, he rounded out his Kentucky holdings with the purchase of a small tract of land from William Henry, a neighbor.<sup>10</sup>

Barely had Benjamin Wilkins established himself in Kentucky when he became involved in the succession of his brother-in-law. On August 28, 1822, John Cocke, "laboring under violent illness," named Benjamin to be executor of his will. Cocke bequeathed all his property to his wife and children and instructed his executor not to sell the sawmill and distillery unless it was absolutely necessary for the support of his family.<sup>11</sup> Dr. Wilkins apparently found the sale necessary, for, on January 23, 1823, several months after

4. The conveyance is recorded in Greenville County, Va., Deed Book 7, p. 152.

5. Christian County, Ky., Deed Book F, p. 303. The conveyance was recorded on March 8, 1817. Cocke subsequently acquired additional acreage from Jesse Ford (Deed Book H, p. 23) and George McClure (*ibid.*, p. 448).

6. That Virginians and Carolinians were attracted to this area of Kentucky and neighboring Tennessee is confirmed by a local historian, who has written that "the early settlers were of Virginia and North Carolina stock, familiar with the methods of culture and curing of tobacco, the seeds having been brought by them from their former homestead. . . . Cultivation was profitable, for the virgin soil of nitrogenous matter produced a satisfactory crop with little labor." Ursula Smith Beach, *Along the Warlike or A History of Montgomery County, Tennessee* (Nashville, Tenn., 1964), p. 117.

7. Christian County, Ky., Deed Book K, p. 499. The land sold for \$4,500.

8. It is assumed that Benjamin transferred his slaves from Virginia to Kentucky since the records of Christian County do not indicate any Wilkins slave purchases. This assumption gathers further strength from the fact that Wilkins probably grew tobacco on the Kentucky lands, a culture well known to his Virginia slaves.

9. Christian County, Ky., Deed Book K, p. 644; Deed Book M, p. 220. Wilkins purchased these lands for \$1,650.

10. *Ibid.*, Deed Book R, p. 546.

11. Christian County, Ky., Will Book C, p. 454.

Cocke's death,<sup>12</sup> he sold the "New Meeting House Tract," including Cocke's industries, to three individuals for \$10,000.<sup>13</sup>

That same year, 1823, Benjamin Wilkins married. His bride was Jane Taylor of nearby Montgomery County, Tennessee.<sup>14</sup> She was the daughter of Edmund and Elizabeth Lewis Taylor.<sup>15</sup> On November 1, 1823, Wilkins bought a 330-acre farm from Robert Searcy of Montgomery County,<sup>16</sup> an indication, perhaps, of the approximate time of his marriage. Although the Wilkinses made their home in Christian County, Ky., their first child, Edmund Taylor Wilkins, was born in Montgomery County on October 20, 1824.<sup>17</sup> A second child, Jane, was born sometime in 1825 or 1826.<sup>18</sup> Subsequent documentation suggests that Jane Taylor Wilkins died in childbirth or shortly following the birth of her daughter.<sup>19</sup>

Following his wife's death, Benjamin became interested in acquiring lands suitable for plantation cultivation in Hinds County, Mississippi. His interest was undoubtedly sparked by his nephews, Douglass and John Wilkins (Joseph's sons), who, upon reaching their majority, sold their Virginia estate and, in 1825, began a twenty-year process of acquiring large tracts of land in Mississippi and Louisiana.<sup>20</sup>

12. Cocke died September 11, 1822. His grave is located in the Cocke Cemetery in Christian County. His tombstone inscription is recorded in Anna Hunsaker Meador and Timothy Reeves Meador, comps., *Cemetery Records of Southern Portion of Christian County, Kentucky* (Hopkinsville, Ky.: Burdines Printing, 1980).

John Cocke's father, Thomas, apparently accompanied, or joined, his son and daughter-in-law in Kentucky. Thomas died in 1824 and was buried next to his son. *Ibid.*

Tabitha Ann Wilkins Cocke, Benjamin's sister, died on May 21, 1847, and is buried next to her husband. *Ibid.*

13. Christian County, Ky., Deed Book O, p. 23.

14. That Benjamin Wilkins married Jane Taylor sometime in 1823 or January 1824, at latest, is attested by two facts: 1) when Benjamin purchased property in Montgomery County, November 1, 1823, Edmund Taylor, his father-in-law, witnessed the transaction; 2) Edmund Taylor Wilkins, Benjamin's and Jane's first child was born October 20, 1824. Edmund's birth date is recorded in *A Memorial and Biographical History of Northern California* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1891), p. 481.

No Wilkins-Taylor marriage record could be located in Montgomery County, Tenn., or in Christian County, Ky. Early marriage records of Montgomery County were destroyed by fire. Extant records there date from 1836.

15. Jane Taylor's mother was Elizabeth Lewis (1766-1833), the daughter of Lawrence Lewis and Eleanor Parke Custis. Lawrence Lewis was the nephew of President George Washington. Eleanor Parke Custis was the daughter of John Custis, the son of Martha Washington. *Memorial and Biographical History*, p. 481.

16. Montgomery County, Tenn., Deed Book K, p. 576.

17. According to his biography, Edmund Wilkins "was born in Montgomery County, Tennessee, at the residence of his grandfather, Colonel Edmund Taylor . . . . At the time of his birth his parents lived in Christian County, Kentucky, but, for the sake of convenience and sociability, he was taken across the line into Tennessee to be born." Lyman L. Palmer, comp., *History of Napa and Lake Counties, California* . . . (San Francisco: Stocom, Bowen, & Co., 1881), p. 582. The Taylor lands are today incorporated into the area of Fort Campbell.

18. The exact birth date of Jane Wilkins is unknown, but these dates are deduced from available evidence.

19. There are no civil records in either Montgomery County or Christian County relating to the death or succession of Jane Taylor Wilkins. An extensive search for her tombstone was conducted by the author in November, 1981, but this proved fruitless. Published cemetery records for the two counties also fail to record Jane's tombstone inscription. Moreover, she apparently is not buried in the family plot now on the grounds of Fort Campbell.

Edmund Taylor, Jane's father, composed his will in March, 1825, at which time his daughter was living. When Edmund's wife, Elizabeth, died in November, 1833, Jane was deceased. Since Jane's only heirs were then reported as being Edmund and Jane Wilkins, one might assume that Jane Taylor Wilkins died shortly after her daughter's birth.

20. See below for additional information on Douglass Wilkins, the son of Joseph Wilkins.

On the same day, November 4, 1825, that Douglass and John Wilkins purchased 399 acres in Hinds County, Benjamin bought 398 acres from the same vendor, Noble Osburn.<sup>21</sup> Two years later, Benjamin sold the land in Montgomery County which he had acquired in 1823 and, on February 10, 1829, bought additional acreage in Mississippi.<sup>22</sup>

The years between 1829 and 1833 appear to have been a time of decision and change for Wilkins. He married a second time, possibly as early as 1829, or as late as 1833, to Sarah Brown Overton of Clarksville, Tennessee.<sup>23</sup>

After his second marriage, Benjamin and his family spent approximately two years in Hinds County, Miss. Extant evidence implies that Wilkins went to Mississippi to enlarge and develop his plantation.<sup>24</sup> He was apparently in the process of developing an approach to plantation agriculture that would stabilize his income regardless of fluctuating commodity prices or unforeseen natural disasters. Thus, it is more than likely that his cash crop in Montgomery County was Dark Fire tobacco; cotton in Hinds County; and would be sugar in Louisiana.<sup>25</sup> It was while the Wilkinses were in Mississippi that their son, Douglass John Benjamin, was born.<sup>26</sup>

Events in Montgomery County, Tenn., however, caused Benjamin and Sarah Wilkins to end their Mississippi sojourn and return to Clarksville. In October, 1833, Richard Overton, Sarah's father, died. As a result, in early 1834, Sarah inherited six slaves and nearly 1,200 acres of farmland.<sup>27</sup> A month after Overton's death, Elizabeth Taylor died. She bequeathed twelve slaves, valued at \$3,908, to her grandchildren, Edmund and Jane Wilkins.<sup>28</sup> Because his children were still minors, Benjamin Wilkins, at the time in Hinds County, Miss., petitioned the Montgomery County Court, on July 20, 1834, to name him the legal guard-

21. The Wilkins purchases are recorded in Hinds County Deed Record Book 1, pp. 28, 29.

22. The sale of the Montgomery County property is recorded in Montgomery County Deed Book 1, p. 95. The Mississippi purchase is found in Hinds County Deed Book 1, p. 222.

23. The earlier year is suggested by the fact that Wilkins sold his home in Christian County, Ky., on July 2, 1829 (Christian County Deed Book R, p. 548). The latter date is suggested by the fact that in Richard Overton's will, dated October 21, 1833, Wilkins is given as the husband of Richard's daughter, Sarah.

There is no official record of the marriage because of the fire that destroyed the early marriage records of Montgomery County.

It is interesting to note that Benjamin Wilkins' brother-in-law by his first marriage, Lewis C. Taylor, was married to Elizabeth Overton, Sarah's sister. Moreover, Lewis' brother, Henry C. Taylor, was married to Eliza W. Cocke, Benjamin's niece. The Taylor-Overton marriage is recorded in Montgomery County Record Book F, p. 572. The Taylor-Cocke marriage is mentioned in Cordelia C. Gary, comp., *Marriage Records, 1797-1850, Christian County, Kentucky* (Privately printed, 1970).

24. It will be remembered that Benjamin Wilkins had bought nearly 400 acres of Hinds County land in 1825. In March, 1835, Wilkins, described as being a resident of Hinds County, bought from Samuel Faulkner and wife an additional 1,040 acres northwest of Raymond. For the record of these purchases, see Hinds County Deed Book 4, pp. 8, 65.

25. In 1839, Benjamin Wilkins and his nephew, Douglass, bought 3,800 acres on upper Bayou Teche and on Bayou Faselier at a place then known as Anse Charpentier, near the present-day town of Arnaudville. See St. Martin Parish Conveyance Book 12, pp. 371-372. This land was later planted in sugarcane and cotton.

26. The place and year of birth for Douglass are recorded in the 1850 federal census for Hinds County, Miss., p. 203. The reader should not confuse Douglass Wilkins, Benjamin's nephew and occasional partner, with Douglass Wilkins, Benjamin's son.

27. Richard Overton's succession is found in Montgomery County, Tenn., Record Book F, pp. 572, 575.

28. Elizabeth Taylor's will is found in *ibid.*, p. 503. The inheritance of the Wilkins grandchildren is set forth in *ibid.*, p. 576.



ian of his children's inherited property.<sup>29</sup> Shortly thereafter, Douglass Wilkins (Benjamin's nephew) notified the court that he would stand bond for his uncle.<sup>30</sup>

The Wilkinses were back in Montgomery County by the beginning of November, 1836.<sup>31</sup> On November 7, Sarah sold 292 acres of her inherited property to Shadrack Trammell and, the same day, sold another 308 acres to her brother William, a Clarksville attorney.<sup>32</sup> The sales brought \$1,800. It was shortly after their return to Montgomery County that the Wilkinses' second child, Ann, was born in late 1836.<sup>33</sup>

For the next two years, the Wilkinses continued to buy and sell rural property in Montgomery County.<sup>34</sup> By 1839, however, Benjamin was apparently prepared to move in new business directions. On February 9, 1839, Benjamin and his nephew, Douglass, purchased from Francois-Xavier Martin, the noted Louisiana jurist and historian, a large tract of land on Bayou Teche in St. Martin Parish.<sup>35</sup> The land was ideally suited for cotton and sugarcane cultivation. In February, 1841, Benjamin visited Louisiana, perhaps for the first time, looked over his recent acquisition in the Teche country, and took the occasion to appoint Douglass his attorney in all matters dealing with his Louisiana holdings.<sup>36</sup>

29. *Ibid.*, Book G, p. 217. Although Benjamin and Sarah Wilkins would eventually sell their real estate in Montgomery County, there is no record of them ever selling slaves. The slaves which Edmund and Jane Wilkins inherited from their grandmother were sent to Mississippi to work on Wilkins' cotton plantation. They are mentioned as being there in November 1836 (see Hinds County, Miss., Deed Book 7, p. 429).

Interestingly enough, at least four slaves named in the children's inheritance of 1833, Dick and his wife Andy and Mason and his wife Jane, are mentioned again, twenty years later, when Edmund closed out his Louisiana sugar operations, selling most of his property to his cousin, James S. Peebles. When Edmund sold them to Peebles in 1853, the slave couples had five children. For the sale to Peebles, see St. Martin Parish Conveyance Book 21, p. 117.

30. Montgomery County Record Book G, p. 217.

31. Benjamin apparently had no intention of soon returning to Mississippi. This assumption is supported by the fact that when Douglass Wilkins (Benjamin's nephew) left Hinds County in 1835 to begin acquiring large amounts of acreage in Louisiana, he gave Benjamin power of attorney to handle his Mississippi business affairs (see Hinds County Deed Record Book V, p. 16). Then, on November 28, 1836, following Benjamin's departure from Mississippi, Douglass gave his power of attorney to James McRaven, Sr. (*Ibid.*, Book VII, p. 429).

32. These sales are recorded in Montgomery County Deed Book R, pp. 88, 153.

33. Ann's age and place of birth are recorded in the 1850 federal census of Hinds County, p. 203.

Even though in an advanced stage of pregnancy, Sarah could have made the trip in 1836 from Mississippi to Tennessee with relative safety and ease. There would have been a short overland journey from Raymond, Miss., to Vicksburg, followed by the relatively comfortable steamboat trip from Vicksburg to Clarksville. For more on steamboat traffic between Clarksville, Tenn., and New Orleans, see Beach, *Along the Warlike*, pp. 110-116.

34. On September 22, 1837, the Wilkinses sold a tract of land containing 115 acres to Nicholas Poindexter (Montgomery County Deed Book S, p. 235). A year later, in September, 1838, Wilkins bought 712 acres from John H. Hinton of Illinois. The land was located on Fletcher's Creek on the Little West Fork of the Red River (Montgomery County Deed Book Z, p. 367). Finally, in November, 1838, Benjamin bought 40 acres adjoining his home place from Peter C. Barck (Montgomery County Deed Book P, p. 547).

35. Benjamin's interest in lands in the sugar region of Louisiana may be further evidence of his desire to diversify his planting operations in the face of fluctuating commodity prices. This was not the first time, however, that Benjamin had followed Douglass' lead in acquiring lands in distant places. He had previously done so in Mississippi in 1825.

Douglass left Mississippi in 1835 and immediately upon arriving in Louisiana began buying public lands in St. Mary Parish. The land purchased in partnership with Benjamin in St. Martin Parish was Douglass' only purchase in that parish. For Douglass' public land purchases in St. Mary Parish, see U. S. Tract Book 11, sales in Township 14 south, Ranges 7 and 8 east, and Township 15 south, Range 8 east. For the sale of the St. Martin Parish land to Douglass and Benjamin Wilkins, see St. Martin Parish Conveyance Book 12, p. 208; Book 12, p. 371; and Book 15, p. 357.

36. Benjamin's procurator to Douglass Wilkins is found in St. Martin Parish Conveyance Book 12, p. 373.

It was, however, in Montgomery County that Benjamin and Sarah would completely reshape their landholdings. On August 16, 1840, they sold the property they had acquired on Fletcher Fork in September, 1838.<sup>37</sup> In December, 1840, they purchased from William Turner, of Clarksville, twenty acres of land lying in the town of Clarksville, "situated between the Nashville road and the Russellville Turnpike."<sup>38</sup> These twenty acres would eventually become the Wilkins Addition to the town of Clarksville.<sup>39</sup>

Other matters also concerned the Wilkinses as the decade began. The time had arrived for Benjamin's eldest son, Edmund, to enter college. In 1840 Edmund was accepted at the College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg, Va., as a candidate for a medical degree.<sup>40</sup>

Little is known about the family between 1840 and 1845. In 1844 Edmund received a medical degree. Like his father had done many years before, Edmund turned to planting for a livelihood rather than enter into the practice of medicine. Thus, following graduation, Edmund went to Mississippi and took over the operation of his father's cotton plantation.<sup>41</sup> Within a year, however, he left Mississippi and went to Louisiana where he began cultivation of a portion of the lands on Bayou Teche which had been jointly purchased by Benjamin and Douglass Wilkins.<sup>42</sup>

Sometime between Edmund Wilkins' move to Louisiana in the spring of 1845 and February, 1847, Benjamin and Sarah Wilkins decided to leave Clarksville, Tenn., and to make their home near Raymond in Hinds County, Miss.<sup>43</sup> At the same time, Benjamin took several actions affecting his landholdings in Louisiana and Tennessee. On February 2, he gave power of attorney to Fisher A. Hannum of Clarksville to subdivide and sell as town

37. The property was sold to D. Brodie. For a record of this sale, see Montgomery County Deed Book W, p. 235.

38. *Ibid.*, Book S, p. 217.

39. These twenty acres would be subdivided in 1847. The Wilkins Addition to Clarksville was the area between Fifth and Seventh streets and between Franklin and Madison streets. For records pertaining to this subdivision, see Montgomery County Deed Book W, p. 700; Book Y, pp. 140 (plat), 368.

40. Edmund's matriculation at the College of William and Mary between 1840 and 1844 is noted in "Register of Students in William and Mary College, 1827-1881," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 2 ser, IV, 137, 170.

According to *A Memorial and Biographical History*, p. 481, Edmund graduated from William and Mary in 1844.

41. *Ibid.*

42. There is nothing to suggest a reason why Edmund would leave Mississippi so soon after arriving. One can speculate, however, that his dynamic nature, as demonstrated over and over in the years to come, led him to believe that he could "strike out" on his own as his cousins Douglass Wilkins and Henry W. Peebles had done but a few short years before.

Edmund's move to Louisiana in the late spring of 1845 is confirmed by the fact that on May 12 Benjamin and Douglass Wilkins partitioned their property on the Teche and on Bayou Fuselier. Edmund Wilkins occupied the 800 acres belonging to Benjamin that faced Bayou Fuselier. This was the area under cultivation. The remaining 1,100 acres were idle. See St. Martin Parish Conveyance Book 15, p. 357; *A Memorial and Biographical History*, p. 481.

43. The author has not uncovered evidence to explain the Wilkinses' departure from Clarksville. One might speculate that there was a connection between their move to Mississippi and Edmund's move to Louisiana. However, their reason may have been more economic than personal in nature. In the crop year 1846 the price of cotton jumped from 6½ cents per pound to 10 cents per pound. Speculation for even higher prices for cotton were rampant at the close of the 1846 crop year. It may be, therefore, that Benjamin's move to Mississippi was prompted by his intention to take advantage of this situation. By the time that Benjamin and family moved to Louisiana in September, 1851, the price of cotton had fallen to 7½ cents. For the average price of cotton per pound between 1839 and 1846, see J. D. B. De Bow, ed., *The Commercial Review of the South and West*, IV, no. 2 (October, 1847), 253.

lots sixteen of the twenty acres he had acquired in town and to sell other property which he and his wife owned in Montgomery County.<sup>44</sup>

During the same month, Benjamin sold his Louisiana plantation to William E. Walker of Virginia and Samuel E. Thorne of North Carolina.<sup>45</sup> Shortly after the sale of his plantation, Benjamin's eldest son, Edmund, went into partnership with his cousin, James Sterling Peebles. On June 8, 1847, he and Peebles purchased 320 acres from Philemon Provost at the place called Anse St-Marc, just north of New Iberia. Then, in December, 1847, Edmund purchased a one-half interest in a 1,500-acre plantation owned by Peebles, also just north of New Iberia.<sup>46</sup>

Edmund stayed in Louisiana only two years before deciding on a new venture that would win fame for him, if not fortune. In March, 1849, he set out for the gold fields of California. Sailing from New Orleans, he finally reached San Francisco in January, 1850.<sup>47</sup> In a few months, after his gold prospecting proved disappointing, Edmund purchased, in partnership, a farm on the Feather River about ten miles above Marysville.<sup>48</sup>

Once this farming operation was established, Edmund's thoughts again turned to medicine. In 1853 he returned to Tennessee and attended a session of the Memphis Medical College.<sup>49</sup> In November of that year, he arrived in the Teche country to close out his business interests, selling his half interest in the sugar plantation at New Iberia

44. Montgomery County Deed Book W, p. 700. In September, 1847, Wilkins authorized Hannum, a surveyor, to lay out in town lots the remaining four acres of the Wilkins Addition. *Ibid.*, Book Y, p. 368.

Among the lots which Hannum sold for Wilkins was Lot No. 1, sold to the Episcopal congregation, represented by H. F. Beaumont, R. S. Moose, D. Browder, John M. Hobbs, and John S. Hart. *Ibid.*, Book Z, p. 451. The sale is dated January 14, 1850.

The sale of the town lots continued until 1857, the last occurring on July 8. *Ibid.*, Book S, p. 331. One of the last sales made by Benjamin in Clarksville may have been his own home. On January 13, 1857, he sold to Joshua Cobb a house and lot on the corner of Commerce and Sixth streets. *Ibid.*, p. 86.

45. The land sold to Walker and Thorne (St. Martin Conveyance Book 16, p. 168) was the same land that Benjamin bought in partnership with Douglass Wilkins and of which Edmund had undertaken to cultivate 800 acres beginning in 1845. It is interesting to note that Edmund Wilkins, William Walker, and Samuel Thorne had been classmates at William and Mary. See "Register of Students," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 2nd ser., IV, 137.

Additional information on Walker, Thorne, and Peebles will be provided in a forthcoming segment of this article.

46. There is no evidence to suggest that Benjamin gave Edmund some or all of the money from the sale to Walker and Thorne. In his biographical sketch, however, it is stated that Edmund sold the plantation and apparently used the proceeds to enter into partnership with Peebles. *A Memorial and Biographical History*, p. 481. On the other hand, there is a passage in Benjamin's will which suggests that he did turn the proceeds of this sale over to his son. In the will, dated March 3, 1870 (St. Martin Parish Estate No. 2229), Benjamin prefaces his bequests thusly: "Having sustained heavy losses during the war [Civil War] and not being able to give my children Anne and Robert Benjamin as much as I gave to my three elder children, Edmund, Jane, and Douglas, I give to Anne . . ."

47. The accounts of Edmund's voyage from New Orleans to San Francisco are found in two biographical sketches: *A Memorial and Biographical History*, pp. 481-482; and in *History of Napa and Lake Counties*, pp. 582-585. The two accounts are, however, somewhat different. The *History of Napa and Lake Counties*, prepared during Dr. Wilkins' lifetime, appears to be the more authoritative and therefore has been used by the author for information on Dr. Wilkins and his family. Nevertheless, the author has also used documents and interviews with family members to corroborate the information presented in the biography.

48. Edmund first purchased a lot in Marysville in August, 1851. Then, in May and October, 1852, he bought, in partnership with Drs. Richard Pegrant and John S. Griffin, approximately 720 acres on the Feather River. For these purchases, see Yuba County, California, Deed Book 6, pp. 284-285, 365-366. Edmund apparently paid for these purchases with a loan from his cousin, Henry W. Peebles. As surety for this and two other loans from the same source, Edmund mortgaged 32 slaves to Peebles. St. Martin Conveyance Book 20, p. 305.

49. *History of Napa and Lake Counties*, p. 583.

to his cousin, James Peebles.<sup>50</sup> When he left for California later that year, he was joined by his brother Douglass. For the younger Wilkins, this would mark the beginning of an adventure that would end in tragedy.<sup>51</sup>

In 1855 Edmund married Matilda Pegram Brander, a native of Petersburg, Va., in Marysville.<sup>52</sup> They had three children, Jane Taylor, Martha Pegram, and Benjamin Sidney.<sup>53</sup> Only Benjamin survived to adulthood.<sup>54</sup>

Edmund returned to Memphis Medical College to attend a second course of instruction in the spring of 1861.<sup>55</sup> There were thirty graduates in the Class of 1861, the largest

50. St. Martin Parish Conveyance Book 21, p. 117. This sale was for \$17,600. It included 13 slaves, Edmund's "individual property." These were the slaves which Edmund inherited from his grandmother, Elizabeth Taylor, and their offspring.

An interesting story surrounds these slaves and Edmund's return to California. Both biographical sketches mention that when Edmund left Louisiana in 1853 he took with him 13 of his "favorite" slaves. The story goes on to recount that when the Negroes arrived in California (as freedmen) Edmund gave them several hundred acres of land on the Feather River. There they settled and for many years they and their descendants cultivated the land. The patriarch of this group, according to one account, was a man named Major Breedon.

The author has no reason to doubt the facts of this matter except for the above-mentioned sale and for the fact that he could not find in Yuba County records any act of conveyance or donation executed by Edmund Wilkins in favor of Major Breedon. Moreover, a comparison of the names and ages of the slaves whom Edmund inherited from his grandmother leaves little doubt that the slaves sold to James Peebles were the same, plus their offspring. For a listing of the slaves involved, see Montgomery County Record Book F, p. 376, and St. Martin Parish Conveyance Book 21, p. 117.

51. Douglass Wilkins, at 19, was apparently a recent graduate from law school when he joined his half-brother for the trip to California. It is not known whether Douglass engaged in a law practice in Marysville. He did, nevertheless, acquire two lots and invested several thousand dollars in interest-bearing loans. A short time after his arrival in California, Douglass became a member of the Yuba Guards, the local militia.

Family tradition holds that in October, 1856, Douglass, apparently in the company of a group of Californians, joined William Walker and his filibusterers in their exploits in Nicaragua. There is no doubt that Douglass went to Nicaragua and died there in November, 1856 (see the *Marysville Daily Herald*, Feb. 8, 1857, p. 2), probably in the action at Masaya on November 15.

Edmund was not notified of his brother's death until early February, 1857. Family tradition also holds that when Benjamin Wilkins learned of his son's death in Nicaragua, he hired an American to go to that country in search of his son's body. The body was never located. Information concerning Douglass John Benjamin Wilkins can be found in the official records of St. Martin Parish (where he is not to be confused with Douglass Wilkins, the son of Joseph Wilkins, who died there in the late 1840s). The will of Douglass Wilkins is found in Yuba County, Calif., Probate No. 186. Matters concerning his career and estate are found in Yuba County Deed Book 19, pp. 310-311 (for example, it is noted here that he had arranged for two crates of law books, valued at \$500, to be shipped to him in Nicaragua). Probably one of the better accounts of Walker's exploits in Nicaragua is that written by Walker himself, *The War in Nicaragua* (1860; reprint ed., Detroit: Blaine Ethridge, 1971).

52. *History of Napa and Lake Counties*, p. 584. There is no record of this marriage in the Yuba County marriage records.

53. *Ibid.*

54. Benjamin Sidney Wilkins became a lawyer in Napa, Calif., where his father had moved to become resident physician of the Napa State Asylum for the Insane. There, Benjamin married Susie Earl, and they had three children: Edmund Earl, Earl Brander, and Helen Wilkins. The family later moved to San Francisco, where their home escaped damage during the earthquake and fire of 1906. Benjamin Sidney Wilkins died in 1940.

Edmund Earl Wilkins, at 91, is today a resident of Burlingame, Calif. He has two sons, Earl Douglas and Edmund Earl, Jr., and eleven grandchildren. Edmund Earl, Jr., carries on the family's medical tradition at Laval University in Montreal, Quebec. Earl Douglas is a businessman in Menlo Park, Calif. Information concerning the descendants of Edmund Taylor Wilkins was gathered in an interview with Edmund Earl Wilkins, Sr., on June 5, 1982.

55. *History of Napa and Lake Counties*, p. 583. The Memphis Medical College was chartered by the Tennessee legislature on January 21, 1846, and the first lectures by its faculty of seven members began in November of that year. The school closed in 1849 and did not reopen until November, 1852. Dr. Lewis Shanks was then serving as dean. For

number in the history of the school.<sup>56</sup>

With his medical studies completed, Edmund returned to California, gave up farming, and moved to Marysville in July, 1861.<sup>57</sup> Thereafter, he devoted the remainder of his life to the care and cure of those suffering mental disorders. In 1870 the governor of California commissioned Dr. Wilkins to investigate the operation and administration of mental-health facilities in America and Europe. Following a lengthy investigation, Wilkins presented his report to the governor in December, 1871. A direct result of this investigation was the enactment of legislation providing for the establishment of more and better facilities for mental-health patients. In March, 1876, Dr. Wilkins was named Resident Physician of the Napa State Asylum for the Insane, a position he held until his death in 1891.<sup>58</sup>

Benjamin and Sarah Wilkins spent the remaining years of the 1840s on their Mississippi cotton plantation near Raymond. By the early 1850s, however, they were on the move again, this time to the Teche country of Louisiana. In the spring and summer of 1851, Benjamin divested himself of most of his Mississippi property<sup>59</sup> and bought 420 acres of sugarcane land in St. Mary Parish from his brother, John D. Wilkins, and his cousin, Henry W. Peebles.<sup>60</sup> There is, however, no indication that Benjamin grew sugarcane on this

more information on this school and Memphis' second medical school, the Botanico-Medical College (chartered February 2, 1846), see Marcus J. Stewart, William T. Black, and Mildred Hicks, eds., *History of Medicine in Memphis* (Memphis: Memphis and Shelby County Medical Society, 1971), especially Chapter 38, "Medical Education," by S. R. Bruesch.

The author is greatly indebted to Mrs. L. Gordon LaPointe of Memphis for graciously supplying this and other information incorporated into this article.

56. Stewart et al., *History of Medicine in Memphis*, p. 313. The College suspended classes with the outbreak of the Civil War. An attempt was made to reopen the school following that conflict but, following the 1871-72 session, it closed indefinitely. *Ibid.*

57. Edmund Wilkins sold his 337-acre farm on January 29, 1867, to Mrs. Ann W. Peebles, the widow of Henry W. Peebles, and Mrs. Sarah B. Wilkins, his stepmother, at the time both were residents of Louisiana. On October 27, 1873, the heirs of Mrs. Peebles and Mrs. Sarah Wilkins sold the farm to Henry Ashmore of Yuba County. These transactions are found in Yuba County Deed Book 19, pp. 308-309; and Book 25, pp. 309-311.

58. Dr. Wilkins' first wife died in March 1867 and is buried in Marysville. Her tombstone inscription is recorded in *Sutter-Yuba Genealogical Society's Digger's Digest*, III, No. 3 (July, August, September, 1976), p. 141.

Wilkins' second wife was Camilla Price, the daughter of John R. Price and niece of Gen. Sterling Price. She was a native of Missouri. She married Dr. Wilkins on May 24, 1877. They had no children. *History of Napa and Lake Counties*, p. 584. She died February 3, 1889. Napa County, Calif., Probate Matter No. 333.

Dr. Wilkins died of pneumonia on February 10, 1891. A few weeks before, he attended a funeral in Marysville during a rainstorm. As a result, he contracted a cold which developed into pneumonia. *The Napa Register*, February 13, 1891. Edmund Taylor Wilkins and Camilla Price Wilkins are buried in Tulocay Cemetery in Napa.

It is interesting to note that among Edmund Wilkins' bequests (Napa County Probate Matter No. 855) were provisions for his two nieces, Jane Taylor Williams of Memphis and Sallie (Sadie) Neblett of Louisiana.

59. On July 14, 1851, Benjamin sold to his daughter, Jane, and her husband, Gen. Joseph R. Williams, 145 acres near Raymond for \$10. Hinds County, Miss., Deed Book 24, p. 218. The author has been unable to locate detailed information concerning Gen. and Mrs. Williams. It does appear that they resided in Memphis for most, if not all, of their married lives. They were living there when Edmund, Jane's brother, attended Memphis Medical College in 1853 and 1861. Their daughter, Jennie (and only child), was living there when Dr. Wilkins' will was probated in Napa in 1891.

60. The author has not been able to locate a documented reason for Benjamin's move from Mississippi to Louisiana. As mentioned before, it was more than likely prompted by the situation surrounding the cotton market. As noted in *De Bow's Review*, "the prices of the last five years [1846-1850] have not afforded sufficient encouragement to production." Cotton sold throughout the period for approximately 7 cents per pound. In light of this, the *De Bow* article opined, "labor and capital have found other modes of employment more attractive and profitable than the raising of cotton." *De Bow's Review* . . . X, No. 2 (February, 1851), 208.

land.<sup>61</sup>

In early 1853, Benjamin apparently decided to leave St. Mary Parish and settle on the upper Teche in the vicinity of the land which he had sold to Walker and Thorne in 1847.<sup>62</sup> In February, 1853, with his son Douglass acting as his agent, Benjamin purchased 450 arpents of land on Bayou Fuselier from Alexandre Savoie and 660 arpents in the same locale from John Brownson. A month later, Douglass, again acting for his father, purchased 300 arpents of land, adjoining the earlier purchases, from Treville Meche and Terrence Stelly.<sup>63</sup> On these newly acquired lands Benjamin and Sarah Wilkins established their plantation home, "Forest Home."<sup>64</sup> It was there that the Wilkinses would share the joy of the birth of another son, Robert, and, the following year, learn of the tragic loss of Douglass.<sup>65</sup>

Little is known of the day-to-day life of the Wilkinses at Forest Home during the 1850s and most of the Civil War era. A report by Maj. A. Power Galloway, 173rd New York Infantry, of his expedition from St. Martinville to Opelousas along the Teche road suggests that Benjamin Wilkins may have operated a hospital for wounded Confederates on his plantation. Galloway mentions that there were twenty wounded men in the hospital

Another factor in Benjamin's move may have been the legal involvements (mentioned in a previous segment of this article) and plans of his brother John. In the fall of 1850, John D. Wilkins announced his intention to abandon his Louisiana sugar plantation to his family in order to occupy, in the spring of 1851, the 1,500-acre tract of land he owned on the Guadalupe River, near Victoria, Texas. He invited yeoman farmers to join him in bringing this land into cultivation by means of a "joint stock cooperation." Mr. Wilkins apparently had in mind what later generations would term a "farmers co-op." John D. Wilkins did not, however, realize this goal because of his failing health and subsequent death in February, 1852. For the Wilkins proposal for the Texas land, see the *New York Daily Tribune*, November 2, 1850, p. 6.

61. Champomier's *Statement of the Sugar Crop, 1851-1859*, does not indicate any sugar production by Benjamin Wilkins in St. Mary Parish.

62. The reader will remember that Benjamin Wilkins had bought this land in partnership with his nephew, Douglass Wilkins, in 1839 (see above, p. 111). Benjamin sold his half of this tract of land to Walker and Thorne in 1847. When Douglass Wilkins (Benjamin's nephew) died unmarried in 1849 (at age 49), he left most of his large landed estate in St. Mary and St. Martin parishes to the five children of his sister, Elizabeth, who had married Dr. Edward Pegasus Scott of Hick's Ford (now Emporia), Va. Because the children were minors, their parents became custodians of their property and the family moved to Louisiana. The Scotts, Drs. Walker and Thorne, and the Wilkinses, all Virginians with the exception of Dr. Thorne (a North Carolinian), thus came to occupy the banks of the Teche in St. Martin Parish from the area of present-day Arnaudville to the area just nor of Cecilia.

As time passed, three of the Scott children died without heirs and their shares of the estate passed to their parents and surviving brother and sister, who were Edward Scott, Jr., and Elizabeth Scott (later Mrs. P. G. Robert). These heirs later disposed of the estate left to them by their uncle, Douglass Wilkins. For additional details on the Scotts and their inheritance, see Greenville County, Va., Will Book 3, p. 7; St. Martin Parish Estate No. 1162; and numerous conveyance and civil-suit records of St. Mary and St. Martin parishes.

63. These purchases are recorded in St. Landry Parish Conveyance Book O, p. 240; St. Martin Parish Conveyance Book 20½, p. 312; Book 20, pp. 508-509. In all three transactions Benjamin is described as then being a resident of St. Mary Parish.

64. The name of Benjamin Wilkins' plantation is recorded in several places, most notably in the reminiscences of Albert Rufin Butler to Robert Donlon in the Donlon Family Papers. Butler was born a slave on Forest Home Plantation in 1864. He recounted that his father had also belonged to Benjamin Wilkins, having been born on Wilkins' Mississippi plantation. Butler stated that his father told him that Benjamin and family travelled from Mississippi to Louisiana in wagons. More than likely, however, the Wilkinses travelled from their Mississippi plantation to Vicksburg by wagon, then boarded a steamboat for Louisiana. Another possibility giving rise to the story of the wagon trip might be that the Wilkinses moved from Isle aux Canes to Forest Home, a distance of about 50 miles, by wagon.

65. According to the 1870 federal census of St. Martin Parish, Robert was then 15 years old. He was, therefore, probably born in 1855. He married Ida Blanche McNulty of Bellevue Plantation on December 18, 1884, and they

when his forces overran the area.<sup>66</sup>

As was the case across the South, the Civil War and its political aftermath dealt a severe blow to agriculturists. In Louisiana, however, nature conspired with man-made circumstances to increase the popular hardship. South Louisiana experienced floods and yellow-fever epidemics throughout the late 1860s. Accompanying these whims of nature were the problems of labor shortages, rampages of the cotton worm, and frequent failure of the corn crop. In light of all this, one can well understand why Benjamin Wilkins prefaced his will with the phrase, "Having sustained heavy losses during the war. . ."<sup>67</sup>

The tragedy of his son's death in Nicaragua, followed closely by the family's traumatic experiences during the Civil War and Reconstruction, proved to be a great strain for Benjamin in the last fifteen years of his life. On March 3, 1870, he drew up the provisions of his will.<sup>68</sup> He was particularly concerned about the welfare of his two younger children, Ann (Annie) and Robert. The will provided that all of Benjamin's estate would pass to his wife Sarah.<sup>69</sup> Upon her death, the estate would be divided between Robert

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had two children, Roberta Hart (later Mrs. Felix Dezauche) and Overton Perry Wilkins. Robert Wilkins died in New Orleans on May 10, 1919. He was subsequently buried in Bellevue Cemetery, near Opelousas. This data is derived from Nicholas Russell Murray, *Computer Indexed Marriage Records: St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, 1817-1892*, 3 parts (Hammond, La.: Hunting for Bears, Inc., 1981), Pt. III, p. 217; St. Landry Parish Estate No. 7018; the *St. Landry Clarion* May 17, 1919.

Overton Perry Wilkins married Eleanor Bosgni on April 26, 1917. They had no children. He died at his home at Bellevue on February 23, 1931. St. Landry Parish Marriage Book 4, p. 356; St. Landry Parish Estate No. 8093.

66. Maj. A. Power Galloway to Lieut. Peter French, A. A. G., Third Division, *O. R.*, Ser. I, XV, 343.

67. The degree of Wilkins' "losses" are reflected in the agricultural census data for 1860 and 1870 (reflecting the situation in 1859 and 1869, respectively).

	1860	1870
Land Under Cultivation	450 acres	160 acres
Value of Farm	\$20,000	\$10,000
Value of Farm Implements	\$1,000	\$600
Animals		
Horses	5	4
Mules	38	6
Oxen	8	2
Milk Cows	12	9
Sheep	30	12
Swine	80	6
Value of Animals	\$7,000	\$1,200
Agricultural Production		
Corn	4,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Cotton	19 bales	8 bales
Sweet Potatoes	5,000 bushels	20 bushels
Sugar	45 hogsheads	none
Molasses	2,500 gallons	none
Wool	none	240 lbs.
Value of Farm Production	(not given in 1860)	\$1,210

68. The provisions of Benjamin Wilkins' will are found in St. Martin Parish Estate No. 2229.

69. Sarah Overton Wilkins died on April 20, 1890, and is buried next to her husband on Forest Home Plantation.



Dr. Edmund Taylor Wilkins (above) was the son and oldest child of Benjamin Wilkins and Jane Taylor.



Robert Wilkins (above, right) was the son and youngest child of Benjamin Wilkins and his second wife, Sarah Brown Overton.

Sarah (Sallie, Sadie) Neblett (right), the daughter of Annie Wilkins and Dr. Henry M. Neblett of Brickland, Va., and granddaughter of Benjamin Wilkins and Sarah Overton, married first, Francis Frederick Carter and, second, Benjamin Donlon, both of Lafayette.

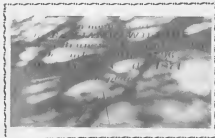




and Ann.<sup>70</sup> Benjamin noted in his will that his two older children, Edmund and Jane, had already received their inheritances.

On January 14, 1871, the *Opelousas Courier* ran the following notice:

Departed this life, on the morning of 8th January, at Forest Home, his late residence in the parish of St. Martin, in the 75th year of his age, Dr. Benjamin Wilkins.



Thus, an era had ended. The Wilkinses of Virginia had sought a new beginning in Louisiana and, as frequently happens, many of their expectations were never fulfilled. Nevertheless, this family certainly left an indelible mark on South Louisiana, particularly in St. Martin, St. Mary, and Iberia parishes. The local culture was made richer because of the Virginians in the Teche country.

70. Anne Wilkins married Dr. H. M. Neblett on February 8, 1871 (St. Martin Marriage Book 3, No. 4090). They had one daughter, Sarah (also called Sallie and Sadie) who married Francis F. Carter of Lafayette. Descendants of Anne Wilkins Neblett presently reside in Lafayette.

# Revised Index to

# St. Mary Parish Estates 1811 - 1900

(Continued from Vol. XVII, No. 2)

Compiled by

*Mrs. Clyde Alpha, Mrs. Margery Laws Luke,  
Mrs. Dorrie R. Richard, and Mary Elizabeth Sanders*

Edited and submitted by

*Mary Elizabeth Sanders*

ESTATE NO.	NAME	YEAR OPENED
2028	Gregoir Bodin	1865
2132	Josephine Bodin & Eugene LeBlanc, her husband, both deceased; she was the widow in the first marriage of Urson Provost [Eugene LeBlanc died Nov. 5, 1867; Josephine Bodin LeBlanc, Nov. 13, 1867.]	1881
2426	Mrs. Eugene D. Boasso, nee Elizeda Robicheaux	1881
2572	Francois X. Boillon/Boillon	1887
2597	Mrs. Emile Bodin, nee Celestine Bourg	1888
2791	Emile Bodin	1895
2845	Mrs. Jules O. Bodin, nee Elodie Prevost	1897
449	Mrs. Lufroy Bonvillain, nee Marguerite Verret	1841
715	Marie A. Bonin, widow Savoie-indexed as Bodin	1850
812	Lufroy Bonvillain	1853
895	Amelie Bonin, wife of Norbert Bodin	1855
2071	Placide Bonin	1866
2276	Philippe Bonavente	1874
2405	Robert Bonvillain	1880
2699	Victor Bolis	1893
2783	John B/G. Bonino	1895
55	J. Borel (missing); undoubtedly Joseph Borel, Sr. See SM 1 22.	1817
125	Hilaire Borel	1823
131	Hilaire Borel	1823
147	Henrietta Borel, widow of Joseph Prevost (not a succession)	1823
252	Eugene Borel	1833
376	Pierre Borel	1838
476	Pelagie Borel, wife of Thomas B. Kershaw	1842
486	Magdeline Borel, widow of Francois Prevost (not a succession)	1842
557	Madeline Borel, widow of Francois Prevost	1845
621	Pamela Borel, wife of Hilaire Borel	1847
722	Mrs. Benjamin Borel, nee Emelia Andrews/Andrus	1850
753	Marie Borel, widow of Jean-Baptiste Bourgeois	1851
2054	Francois Borel	1865
2123	Marie Doralice Borel, wife of Frederick Louviere	1867

ESTATE NO.	NAME	YEAR OPENED
2166	Eleanore Borel, wife of Dazincourt Bourgeois	1869
2199	Francois Borel, fils [Jr.]	1870
2288	Pierre Borel & Celestine Borel, his wife, both deceased	1874
2378	Joseph Aldor Borel	1879
2951	Mrs. Martha C. Borah, widow of Walter S. Borah	1900
2529	Abel W. Bosworth & William S. Bosworth	1886
33	Z. Boutte & M. A. Decuir (missing); probably Francois Zenon Boutte and his wife, Marie Aspasia Decuir. See SM 1 13.	1814
69	Mrs. Louis Hilaire Boutte, nee Marie Lucile Decuir (missing); indexed as M. L. Decuir; this was probably her succession. See SM 1 27.	1818
152	Pierre Boutte, F. M. C.	1826
158	Francois Cezar Boutte, pere [Sr.]	1827
159	Mrs. Francois Cezar Boutte, nee Marie Therese DeGruy	1827
166	Marie Therese Boutte, wife of Samuel Charles Mayer	1828
176	Sully Bouillet/Bouellet	1830
178	Leon Boutte	1829
292	Lalmante Bourque	1833
303	Louis Hilaire Mulo Boutte, F.M.C.	1835
363	Catherine Boudoin/Baudoin, widow of William Desk, widow in first marriage of Pierre Etier.	1837
387	Phillipant Boutte, F.M.C.	1838
554	N. Medidor Boutte, F.M.C.	1845
598	Prudence Boutte, F.W.C.	1846
601	Adelaide Boutte, F.W.C.	1846
606	Carmesile Bourgeois, wife of Philbert Hebert	1847
626	Hilaire Boutte	1847
693	Marie Lucille Boudreaux, wife of Auguste Landry	1849
724	Benjamin Bourgeois	1850
738	Jean-Baptiste Bourgeois	1851
753	Mrs. Jean-Baptiste Bourgeois, nee Marie Borel	1851
841	Mrs. Pierre Bourg, nee Marie Pennison	1854
844	Louise Pierre Boutte, wife of Philippe Philippant Boutte, F.P.C.	1854
966	Zenon Bourgeois	1857
1003	Rosette Boutte, F.W.C.	1859
1004	Mrs. Louis Mulot Boutte, nee Genevieve Orso, F.P.C.	1859
1008	Mrs. Francois Zenon Boutte, nee Modeste Darby, F.P.C.	1859
1065	Charles Boutte, F.M.C.	1860
2059	Pierre Boutte, F.M.C.	1864
2151	Catherine Bourdier, wife of Jean-Pierre Bourdier	1868
2166	Mrs. Dazincourt Bourgeois, nee Eleanore Borel	1869
2185	Pierre Bourg	1869
2186	Pierre Bourg, Jr.	1869
2192	V. Edmond Bourg & Amelise Daigle, his wife, both deceased	1870
2271	Francis P. Boutte	1873
2334	Pierre Bourg	1877
2374	Jacques Bourdier	1879

ESTATE NO.	NAME	YEAR OPENED
2382	John Baptiste Boudreaux	1879
2396	Euphemie Bourgh & William Ager, her husband, both deceased	1880
2271	Francis P. Boutte	1873
2334	Pierre Bourg	1877
2374	Jacques Bourdier	1879
2382	John Baptiste Boudreaux	1879
2396	Euphemie Bourgh & William Ager, her husband, both deceased	1880
2504	Nathalie Bourg, wife of Louis Lucien Leon, widow in first marriage of Gregoire Bodin	1884
2510	Etienne Bourgeois	1885
2597	Celestine Bourg, wife of Emile Bodin	1888
2639	J. E. Bourgeois (missing)	1890
2692	Francois Cezar Boutte & Marie Verdun, his wife, both deceased	1892
2717	Aclide Bourgeois	1893
2880	John B. Bourdier	1898
2955	Marcillien Boudreaux	1900
2968	Mrs. Alfred Boudreaux, nee Julia LeBlanc	1900
2978	Mrs. Antoine Bourgeois, nee Mary Vincent—divided guide card not marked	1900
199	Ann Bowes, wife of George Royster	1831
228	Evan Bowles	1832
263	Mrs. Evan Bowles, nee Dorothy Carlin (not a succession)	1834
456	Thomas E. Bowles	1841
548	Louisa Bowles, wife of Alexander L. Fields	1845
587	Eleanor Bowles, wife of Simon C. Mathison	1846
885	Mrs. Evan Bowles, nee Dorothy Carlin	1855
1036	Dr. Isaac Bowman	1859
143	William Boyce	1825
307	Elijam Boyce	1835
321	Gideon Boyce	1836
980	Mrs. Michael Boylan, nee Mary Doniho	1858
2104	Michael Boylan/Bayland—indexed as Baylan	1867
2486	Henrietta Boyd, wife of Tim Boyd	1883
2518	Amanda Boyd, wife of John Boyd	1885
306	Mrs. Walter Brashear, nee Margaret Barr	1835
547	Thomas Bradshaw	1844
662	John Bragg	1849
806	Mary M. Brady, wife of James R. Daly	1853
947	Robert B. Brashear	1857
982	Thomas Bradley, an idiot (not a succession)	1859
1001	Thomas T. Brashear	1859
1029	John Braun	1859
1068	Dr. Walter Brashear	1860
2065	Mathew Braddendall	1866

(To Be Continued)

# Records of Belle Isle-en-Mer

Translated by Mathé Allain  
(Continued from Vol. XVII, No. 2)

*Family of Alain LeBlanc,  
village of Kerledant,  
parish of Sauzon'*

On March 7, 1767, appeared Alain LeBlanc, of the village of Kerledant, parish of Sauzon who, in the presence of Joseph Babin, Louis Courtin, Pierre Doucet, and Simon Pierre Daigre, all Acadians living on this island, declared that he was born at Mines, parish of St. Charles, in 1731, to Claude LeBlanc and Jeanne Dugast. Claude LeBlanc was the son of Rene LeBlanc and Anne Bourgeois. Rene LeBlanc was the son of Daniel LeBlanc who had come from France with his wife. They settled at Port Royal and died there. Jeanne Dugast was the daughter of Abraham Dugast, son of another Abraham Dugast who had come from France with his wife to settle at Port Royal, where they both died.

The said Alain LeBlanc, deponent, married in England, at southampton, on October 28, 1756, Anne-Marie Babin, who was born in the parish of St. Charles in 1737. She was the daughter of the late Claude Babin and Marguerite Dupuis. The said Marguerite Dupuis lives at Kerledant, parish of Sauzon.

Louis Courtin  
Pierre Doucet

Simon Pierre Daigre  
Joseph Babin

*Family of Marguerite Dupuis, widow of Claude Babin,  
living at Kerledant,  
parish of Sauzon.*

On March 8, 1767, appeared Marguerite Dupuis, widow of Claude Babin, who lives at Kerledant, parish of Sauzon, with Joseph Babin, Louis Courtin, Pierre Doucet, and Simon-Pierre Daigre, all Acadians living on this island, witnesses, before whom she declared that she was born at Mines, parish of Saint Charles, in 1702, daughter of Martin Dupuis and Marie Landry. Martin Dupuis was the son of another Martin Dupuis who had come from France, and of Perrine Theriot who died at Port Royal. Marie Landry was the daughter of Rene Landry who had come from France and of Marie Bernard who was established at Port Royal and who died there. Marguerite Dupuis was married at Mines, parish of St. Charles, in 1718, to Claude Babin, who was born in the said parish, in 1698, to Charles Babin and Magdelaine Richard of Port Royal. Charles Babin was the son of Antoine Babin who had come from France with his wife, Marie Mercier, [and who] settled at Port Royal. Both of them died there.

From the marriage of Charles Babin and Magdelaine Richard were born at Mines, parish of St. Charles:

Rene Babin, in 1692, married to Elizabeth Gautrot, daughter of Claude Gautrot and Marie Theriot.

Pierre Babin, in 1694, married at the said place to Magdelaine Bourg, daughter of Alexandre Bourg, called Belle-Humeur, and Marguerite Melancon.

Claude Babin, husband of Marguerite Babin, deponent.

Jean Babin, in 1700, married to Marguerite Theriot, daughter of Jean Theriot and Jeanne Landry, of Riviere aux Canards. The said Marguerite Theriot died in Southampton, in August 1756 and Jean Babin is now at St. Malo with his family.

Joseph Babin, in 1702, married to Angelique Landry, daughter of Antoine Landry and Marie Thibodault. The said Joseph Babin died at Mines, in 1752, and the said Angelique Landry was deported to Virginia with her family.

Marie Babin, in 1712, married to Antoine LeBlanc, son of Antoine LeBlanc and Anne Landry. Antoine LeBlanc, died at Mines, in 1744, and the said Marie Babin was deported to Virginia with her family.

Charles Babin, in 1714, married to Anne Melancon, daughter of Philippe Melancon and of Marie Dugast. Charles Babin died at Mines and Anne Melancon was deported to Virginia with Joseph Babin, her only son.

From the marriage of Marguerite Dupuis and the late Claude Babin, were born at Mines, parish of St. Charles.

Claude Babin, in 1719, married at Beaubassin to Marie Cormier, daughter of Pierre Cormier and Marie LeBlanc, who went to Quebec with her family.

Jacques Babin, in 1723, married to Marie Bourgeois, daughter of Pierre Bourgeois and Magdelaine Cormier, of Beaubassin, deported to Carolina with their families.

Bazille Babin, in 1727, married at Halifax by Mgr. Maillard, to Marie Soignier, daughter of Jacques Soignier and Anne Hebert of Petitcodiac, who went to Mississippi with their family.

Joseph Babin, in 1735, married in England at Southampton on November 9, 1756, to Marianne LeBlanc, daughter of Jean LeBlanc and Anne Landry, who live at Toquettard [?], parish of Sauzon.

Anne-Marie Babin, in 1737, married in England, at Southampton, to Alain LeBlanc, living at Kerledant, parish of Sauzon.

Laurent Babin, in 1740, married at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, at Palais, parish of Saint-Gerard to Marie-Francoise Carriere on February 4, 1766, and is living at Palais.

Charles Babin, on February 20, 1742, living with his mother, the said Marguerite Dupuis, at Kerledant, parish of Sauzon.

Such is the declaration of the widow Claude Babin, which was read to her, and she declared it true and that she could not sign. Done at Sauzon, over the signature of the four above-named witnesses, of Joseph Benoist, pastor of Sauzon, of Jean-Louis LeLoutre, missionary, and ours, on this day, March 12 of the said year.

Louis Courtin

Simon Pr. Daigre

Joseph Babin

J. L. LeLoutre, missionary

Pierre Doucet

Thebaud, clerk

Jh. Benoist, pastor of Sauzon

*Family of Pierre Doucet of Anwort, parish of Sauzon*

On March 9, 1767, appeared Pierre Doucet, living at Anwort, parish of Sauzon, who in the presence of Joseph Babin, Pierre Courtin, Simon-Pierre Daigre, and Jean-Baptiste Le-

Blanc, Acadians living on this island, witnesses, declared he was born at Mines, parish of Saint Charles, in November 1738, son of Jean Doucet and Magdelaine Theriot, of the said place. Jean Doucet was the son of Jean Doucet and Marie Robichault, of Port Royal, and Jean Doucet was the son of Charles Doucet and Huguette Guerin. Charles Doucet was the son of Germain Doucet who had come from Canada, and, at Port Royal, married Marguerite Landry, both of them having died at the said place. Marie Robicho was the daughter of Prudent Robicho and Enriette Petitpas, Prudent Robicho being the son of Charles Robicho who had come from France with his wife and settled at Port Royal, where they died.

Magdelaine Theriot was born at Mines, parish of Saint Charles, in 1715, daughter of Jean Theriot and Magdelaine Bourg. Jean Theriot was the son of Germain Theriot and Marie Richard. Germain Theriot was the son of Claude Theriot who had come from France and married Marie Gautrot at Port Royal, where they both died.

From the marriage of Jean Doucet and Magdelaine Theriot, who were married at Mines in 1737 were born:

Pierre Doucet, deponent, in the parish of Saint Charles, in November 1738.

Paul-Marue Doucet, born at Beaubassin, in January 1746, living now at Miramichy.

The said Pierre Doucet, deponent, married at Southampton in England, on April 6, 1763, Marie Blanche Richard, born at Mines, parish of St. Charles, in February 1746, daughter of Joseph Richard and Marguerite LeBlanc. Joseph Richard was the son of Pierre Ricahrd and Marguerite Landry, Pierre Richard was the son of Michel Richard, called *Sans-Soucy*, who came from France and married Anne Blanchard at Port Royal where they both died.

Marguerite LeBlanc was born at Mines, parish of Saint Charles, in 1726, the daughter of Charles LeBlanc and Magdelaine Gautrot. Charles LeBlanc was the son of Antoine LeBlanc and Marie Bourgeois; and Antoine LeBlanc was the son of Daniel LeBlanc, who came from France with his wife to settle at Port Royal, where they both died.

From the marriage of Joseph Richard and Marguerite LeBlanc were born at Mines, parish of Saint Charles:

Marie-Blanche Richard, wife of the deponent.

Charles Richard, in 1749, bachelor living at Auvort, parish of Sauzon, with Pierre Doucet, his brother-in-law.

From the marriage of Pierre Doucet and Marie-Blanche Richard were born:

Joseph-Basille [?] Doucet, at St. Servant of St. Malo, on February 2, 1764.

Marie Blanche Doucet, born at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, parish St. Gerard, on January 20, 1766.

Such is the declaration of Pierre Doucet, which was read to him and he declared it true and signed with the above witnesses. Seen and done at Sauzon, over the signatures of Joseph Benoist, pastor of Sauzon, Jean-Louis LeLoutre, missionary, and our own this day and year.

Louis Courtin  
Simon Pr. Daigre  
Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc  
J. L. LeLoutre, missionary

Pierre Doucet  
Joseph Babin  
Thebaud, clerk  
Jh. Benoist, pastor of Sauzon

*Family of Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc of Toquettar, parish of Sauzon*

On March 9, 1767, appeared Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc of Toquettar, parish of Sauzon, who in the presence of Joseph babin, Louis Courtin, Simon-Pierre Daigre, and Pierre Doucet,

Acadians living on this island, witnesses, declared he was born at Riviere-aux-Canards, parish of St. Joseph, on October 28, 1740, son of Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, called Dessapins, who was born at Mines, parish of Saint Charles in 1716, and Marguerite Melancon, born at the said place in 1724. Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, called Dessapins, was the son of Jean LeBlanc, also called Dessapins, and Anne Landry. Jean Landry was the son of Antoine LeBlanc and Marie Bourgeois. Antoine LeBlanc was born to Daniel LeBlanc, who came from France with his wife and settled at Port Royal, where they both died.

Marguerite Melancon was the daughter of Joseph Melancon and Marguerite LeBlanc. Joseph Melancon was the son of Philippe Melancon and Marguerite Dugast; Philippe Melancon who came from Scotland and married, after conversion, Anne Wins of Port Royal, both of them dying in Saint Charles parish.

The said Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, called Dessapins, father of the deponent, married in Saint Charles parish Marguerite Melancon and from that marriage was born the said Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, deponent, and only son, at Riviere-aux-Canards, parish of St. Joseph. The said Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, called Dessapins, died at Toquettar, parish of Sauzon, on September 20, 1766, and Marguerite Melancon died in England at Southampton in 1756.

The said Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, moreover, declared that Joseph Daigre, his first cousin, minor child and only son, was born at Mines, parish of Saint Charles, in March 1752, the son of Charles Daigre and Marie LeBlanc, sister of Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, called Dessapins, born of the same parents. The said Charles Daigre was the son of Joseph Daigre and Magdelaine Gautrot; Joseph Daigre, of Bernard Daigre of Port Royal who died at Port La Joye at Ile St. Jean and Claire Bourg of Port Royal, who died at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption. The said Bernard Daigre was the son of Jean Daigre who came from France and married Marie Gaudet at Port Royal, where they both died. The said Charles Daigre, father of the minor child, died on the ship which was carrying the Acadians from Virginia to England, in June 1756.

The said Marie LeBlanc, mother of the minor, died at Southampton in August 1756.

Such was the declaration of Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc which was read to him, and he declared it true and signed together with the above witnesses. Done at Sauzon, on March 12 of the said year, over the signature of the above witnesses, of Joseph Benoist, pastor of Sauzon, Jean-Louis LeLoutre, missionary, and ours.

Louis Courtin

Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc

Simon Pr. Daigre

J. L. LeLoutre, missionary

Pierre Doucet

Joseph Babin

Thebault, clerk

Jh. Benoist, pastor of Sauzon

*Family of Joseph Babin, living at Loquettar, parish of Sauzon*

On March 16, 1767, appeared Joseph Babin of Loquettar, parish of Sauzon, who in the presence of Louis Courtin, Simon-Pierre Daigre, Pierre Doucet, and Olivier Daigre, witnesses, Acadians living on this island, declared that he was born at Mines, parish of Saint Charles in 1735, the son of the late Claude Babin and Marguerite Dupuis, who now lives at Kerledant, parish of Sauzon, where the Babin genealogy was recorded.

The said Joseph Babin was married in England, at Southampton, on November 9, 1756, to Mariane LeBlanc, sister of the late Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, called Dessapins, with the same ancestors, born in the same parish of Saint Charles in 1735.

From that marriage were born:



Joseph-Narcisse Babin, at Southampton on October 12, 1757.

Bonnaventure Babin, born at the same place on November 29, 1759.

Marie-Theotiste Babin, born at the said place, on December 3, 1761.

Marie-Victoire Babin, born on May 19, 1763, on the royal vessel *Dorothee*, going from England to St. Malo.

Francois-Laurent Babin, born at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, at Palais, parish of St. Gerard, on January 2, 1766.

Such was the declaration of the said Joseph Babin, which was read to him, and he declared it true and signed with the above witnesses. Done at Sauzon, over the signature of Joseph Benoist, pastor of Sauzon, Jean-Louis LeLoutre, missionary, and ours, clerk, on this March 12, 1767, in the afternoon.

Pierre Doucet

Joseph Babin

Olivier Daigre

J. L. LeLoutre, missionary

Louis Courtin

Simon Pr. Daigre

Thebaud, clerk

Jh Benoist, pastor of Sauzon

*Declaration of Father LeLoutre,  
former vicar-general of the diocese of Quebec, Canada*

On March 12, 1767, the said Father LeLoutre declared that the Acadians on this island were deported by the English to Boston and other English colonies in October 1755; that from these colonies, they were transferred to England and dispersed among various places during the year 1756; that in 1763, after the peace treaty, they were brought to France on the king's ships, and placed in various ports; and that in October 1765, they were sent to this island on the orders of the Duke of Choiseul, Minister of the Navy. This he affirmed to be true and signed after it was read to him, the said month and year.

J. L. LeLoutre

Missionary

We, the undersigned clerk appointed to register the genealogy of the Acadians on this island, certify the present copy, as a cuplicate of the one at Auray, except for the signature of Fr. LeLoutre, which has not been affixed to the one filed at Auray because he left this island on March 12 of last year, before that copy was made on April 12, 1767.

Thebaud,

clerk

I, the undersigned pastor of Sauzon, Belle-Isle-en-Mer, because of the paralysis which has struck Fr. Le Touquet, rector of the parish, certify the present original and duplicate sent to be filed at the Archives of Auray, as decreed, except for the signatures of Fr. LeLoutre which would not be affixed because he had left the island on March 12 of last year before this copy was made. In faith of which I signed at Sauzon, on Belle-Isle-en-Mer, July 21, 1767.

Jh. Benoist,  
pastor of Sauzon

# BANGOR

The present register contains forty rolls of stamped paper, the first and last being paginated by us, Francois Lucas Dumortays, former attorney, in the absence of the Senechal of Auray, in order to register the baptisms and marriages in Bangor parish during 1767 for the Acadians, along with their genealogy. Done at Auray, on January 30, 1767.

Lucas Dumortays,  
former attorney

On February 14, 1767, before us, Jean-Marie Thebaud, notary of the royal marquisat of Belle-Ile-en-Mer, commissioned to register the genealogy of the newly established Acadians, as ordered by the court on January 12, in virtue of which and of the choice of the Acadians from the four parishes of the island, we took an oath before Lucas de la Mottrays, advocate of the jurisdiction of Auray in the absence of the senechal, on the direction of Hilarion Allain [?], advocate and acting for the public prosecutor, on January 30, we have open the present register in the presence of the venerable and respected Pierre-Jacques-Philype Le SErgent, pastor of Bangor on this island, of the venerable and respected Jean-Louis LeLoutre, vicar-general of the diocese of Quebec, missionary and spiritual guide of the Acadians, and of Jacques Fronteaux [?] de Lados [?], royal prosecutor of this jurisdiction, over their signatures and ours, the said day and year.

J. L. LeLoutre, missionary  
Jacques Fronteneaux de Lados, public attorney

P. J. Ph. Le SErgent, pastor of Bangor  
Thebaud, clerk

[There follows a copy of the decree of January 12, 1767, ordering the genealogy of the Acadians to be taken down.]

Genealogy of the Acadian families established at Bangor, on Belle-Ile, recorded in this register as ordered by the above decree.

On February 20, 1767, before noon, appeared Charles LeBlanc and Simon LeBlanc, brothers and sharecroppers at Kerlourde, parish of Bangor, accompanied by Charles Granger, Joseph Billerey, Jean Theriot, and Simon-Pierre Trahant, all Acadians living on this island, witnesses, before whom the said Charles and Simon LeBlanc issued a statement. Charles LeBlanc [stated] taht he was born at Mines, parish of St. Charles in Acadia, son of Jacques LeBlanc and Catherine Landry. The said Jacques LeBlanc was born at Port Royal, Acadia, parish of St. [?], son of Rene LeBlanc and Anne Bourg, both of that parish. Rene LeBlanc was the son of Jean-Noel LeBlanc who came from France with his wife and settled at Port Royal, where they both died. The said Catherine Landry was born at Pisiquid, parish of Assumption, in 1684, and died at Mines in 1754. She was the daughter of Jean Landry of the said parish who died in the parish of Holy Family in 1744, and Bernard Gaudet of Port Royal, who died at the said place.

From the marriage of Jacques LeBlanc and Catherine Landry, his wife, were born at Mines, parish of St. Charles:

Anne LeBlanc, married to Jean Gautrot, son of Claude Gautrot and Marie Theriot of the said parish, deported to Maryland, an English colony in North America.

Jean LeBlanc, married to Magdelaine Theriot, daughter of Germain Theriot and Anne Broussard of the said parish. The said LeBlanc died at [Southampton?], England with his

wife.

Marie LeBlanc, married to Charles Gautrot, son of Claude Gautrot and Marie Theriot, deported to Maine.

Marguerite LeBlanc, born at Mines in 1707 and married to Joseph Granger, son of Rene Granger and Marguerite Theriot at Riviere-aux-Canards, parish of St. Joseph. The said Joseph Granger died at Falmouth on January 1, 1757, and Marguerite LeBlanc lives on this island at [Andristol?], parish of Palais.

honore LeBlanc, born in the parish of St. Charles on October 21, 1710, married at Pisiquid, parish of the Assumption, to Marie Trahant, daughter of Guillaume Trahant and Jacqueline Benoist. Marie Trahant died at Liverpool, England, in June 1763, and Honore LeBlanc lives at Bordestan, parish of Palais.

Bagdelaine LeBlanc, born in 1712, parish of St. Charles, married to Jean-Baptiste Melancon, son of Jean Melancon and Marguerite Dugast, of the same parish, deported the English to Maryland.

Francoise LeBlanc, born in the same parish in 1716, married to Charles Granger, son of Rene Granger and Marguerite Theriot at Riviere-aux-Canards, parish of St. Joseph. The said Cahrls Granger died at [?] on September 29, 1756. Francoise LeBlanc lives at [Ker-?], parish of Sauzon.

Joseph LeBlanc, born in the same parish in June 1721, married to Elizabeth Gaudet, daughter of Bernard Gaudet and Elizabeth La Femme at Port Royal and gone to the Mississippi with his family.

Judith LeBlanc, born in 1724, same parish, and married to Germain Thibodault, son of Jean Thibodault and Marguerite Hebert of the same parish, both died at Falmouth in 1756.

Catherine LeBlanc, born in the same parish, in 1728, married to Jean-Baptiste Babin, son of Pierre Babin and Magdelaine Bourg, of the same parish, deported by the English to Maryland.

Elizabeth LeBlanc, born in the same parish, in 1730, married with dispensation of third degree consanguinity to Simon LeBlanc, son of Joseph LeBlanc, called Le Maigre, and Anne Bourg, of the same parish, deported by the English to Maryland.

The above mentioned Charles LeBlanc, born in St. Charles parish, in October 1718, married at the same place in August 1741, to Elizabeth Thibodault, daughter of Jean Thibodault and Marguerite Hebert of the same parish. Jean Thibodault was born at Port Royal, son of another Jean Thibodault and Marguerite Hebert, of the same parish. This Jean Thibodault was the son of Pierre Thibodault who came from France and died at the said place. Marguerite Hebert was the daughter of Emanuel Hebert and [?]. Emanuel Hebert was the son of [?] Hebert who came from France and Marie Gaudet, his wife, established at Port Royal, where they both died.

From the marriage of Charles LeBlanc and Elizabeth Thibodault were born at Riviere-aux-Canards, parish of St. Joseph:

Marie-Blanche LeBlanc, in August 1743, amrried to Olivier Daigre, who lives at Chubiguc, parish of Palais.

Marguerite LeBlanc, born in the said parish of St. Joseph, on February 2, 1744, married to Joseph-Ignace Richard, born at Pisiquid, parish of the Holy Family, on February 17, 1743, son of Pierre Richard and Marie-Josephe LeBlanc. The said Joseph-Ignace Richard and his wife live at Keroudi, parish of Bangor. From that marriage was born Jean-Charles Richard, born in the parish of Palais in January 1766.

Jean-Baptiste LeBlanc, born in the same parish of St. Joseph in April 1746.

Olivier LeBlanc, born at the said place in 1748.

Marin LeBlanc, born at the same place in August 1750.

Anselme LeBlanc, born at the same place, in February [?] 1752.

From the late Germain Thibodault and the late Judith LeBlanc and living at [?], parish of Sauzon was born:

Marie Thibodault, in 1743, at Riviere-aux-Canards, parish of St. Joseph, married on March 29, 1765 to Pierre Granger, living at [?], parish of Bangor.

Elizabeth Thibodault, born in the said parish in March 1745.

Anne Thibodault, born at the said place in 1747.

### *Declaration of Simon LeBlanc*

Simon LeBlanc, born on May 7, 1720, parish of St. Charles, brother of Charles LeBlanc with the same ancestors, married on August 30, 1743, at Cobequid, parish of St. Peter and Paul, Marguerite Bourg. She was born in the same parish on 1722, daughter of Jean Bourg, who died at Ile St. Jean in 1755 (?) and Francoise Aucoin who died the same year during the crossing from Ile St. Jean to Europe. The said Marguerite Bourg died at Falmouth on October [?], 1756.

From that marriage were born in the parish of St. Charles:

Francoise LeBlanc, on May 14, 1745. [She is] now a nun with the Ursulines of Morlaix.

Jean LeBlanc, on October 23, 1746.

Basile LeBlanc, born in January 1748.

Simon LeBlanc, on February 20, 1750.

The said Simon LeBlanc was married a second time on August 2, 1757, at Falmouth, England, by Fr. Colomb, to Marie Trahant, daughter of Joseph Trahant and Elizabeth Theriot, sister of Jean-Baptiste Theriot who lives at Lormanalie, parish of Bangor, and having the same ancestors. The said Marie Trahant was married a first time at Riviere-aux-Canards, parish of St. Joseph, to Simon Granger, brother of Laurent Granger who lives at Lanno, parish of Sauzon, and Francois Granger.

From his marriage to the said Marie Trahant in the month of September 1756. [This does not fit the dates given earlier. Moreover, the sentence is incomplete.]

From the second marriage of Simon LeBlanc and Marie Trahant were born:

Joseph LeBlanc, on November 1, 1764; at Morlaix, parish of St. [?], bishopric of St. Paul-de-Leon.

Pierre-Marie LeBlanc, on December 25, 1766, at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, parish of Bangor.

Such is the declaration of Charles and Simon LeBlanc which was read to him and he declared it true and that he could not sign. Done over the signature of the above-mentioned witnesses, of Pierre-Jacques-Philippe Le Sergeant, pastor of Bangor, Jean-Louis Le Loutre, missionary, and ours.

Jean Theriot  
Joseph Billerey  
J. L. LeLoutre, missionary

Charles Granger  
Thebaut, clerk  
P. J. Ph. Le Sergeant, pastor of Bangor

### *Family of Jean Tiernay, of Kerarigon, parish of Bangor*

On February 20, 1767, appeared Jean Tiernay, of Kerarigon, parish of Bangor on this island, who, in the presence of Charles Granger, Joseph Bellerey, Jean Theriot, and Simon-Pierre Trahant, all Acadians living on this island, witnesses, declared that he was born at [?] in 1740, in the province of Limerick, Ireland. [He is] the son of Andre Tierney

and Marguerite [Royunte?], married at Livermouth to Magdelaine Hebert, born at Pisi-  
quid, parish of the Assumption, in 1740, daughter of Joseph Hebert and Magdelaine Trahan.  
Joseph Hebert was the son of Jean Hebert and Magdelaine Dugast. Jean Hebert was the son  
of Emanuel Hebert and Andree Lebrun. Emanuel Hebert was the son of Etienne Hebert  
who came from France with his wife, Marie Gaudet, established himself at Port Royal  
where they died. Magdelaine Trahan was born in the parish of St. Charles in 1704, the  
son of Alexandre Trahan and Marie Pellerin. Alexandre Trahan was the son of Guillaume  
Trahan who came from France and married at Port Royal Magdelaine Brun; both of them  
died there. Marie Pellerin was the daughter of Jacques Pellerin, who came from Quebec  
and Marie Colbec, also from Quebec, married at Beaubassin in Acadia.

From the marriage of Jean Tierney with Magdelaine Pelagie Hebert were born at Mora-  
laix:

Andre Tierney, in the parish of St. Malaine, bishopric of Treguier, in December 1764.

David Tierney, born in the said parish, on March 15, 1765.

Such is the declaration of Jean Tierney, which was read to him and he declared it  
true and signed with the above-named witnesses. Done before Pierre-Jacques-Philippe  
Le Sergent, pastor of Bangor, Jean-Louis LeLoutre, missionary, and ours, clerk.

The word "Andre" was clarified.

Charles Granger

Jean Theriot

J. L. LeLoutre, missionary

Pierre Simon Trahan

John Tierney

P. J. Ph. Le Sergent, pastor of Bangor  
Thebaud, clerk

(To Be Continued)

## LAND GRANTS OF THE SOUTHWEST OPELOUSAS DISTRICT

Attakapas Historical Association announces the publication of Part I of a  
new map series, showing the approximate 200 French concessions and Spanish  
land grants awarded between 1763 and 1803 in the Southwest Opelousas Dis-  
trict.

This map, 36 x 36 inches, encompasses the southwest quadrant of St. Landry  
Parish and small portions of Acadia and Evangeline parishes (townships 5, 6, and  
7S., ranges 2, 3, and 4 E.).

This new map series represents an area adjacent to that of the map series,  
*Land Grants along the Teche*. It is produced by Attakapas Historical Association  
in cooperation with the Center for Louisiana Studies of the University of South-  
western Louisiana.

Price of each map is \$3.50. To order, make check payable to Attakapas  
Historical Association, P. O. Box 43010, Lafayette, Louisiana 70504.

# Frenchy and Le Prince

by Cordell Kemper Ballard\*

It is easy to believe that on one of their voyages to the New World a contemporary of Columbus discovered that string of islands off the coast of Louisiana, which much later was named the Islands of the Attakapas. In a world of water and marsh these islands dotted the seascape for years before the Mississippi River made its way through miles of sediment to the Gulf of Mexico. Volcanic action early in the life of this hemisphere forced the seabed above water level by 300 feet, creating five islands in a straight line, comprising hundreds of acres visible to the ships of early explorers sailing in the Gulf of Mexico.

Surrounded by marsh and water channels, Cote Blanche Island was the gem of the cluster. Its high bluff was exposed more directly to the waves from the gulf. Storms washed into its hills and formed white cliffs visible far out to sea. Navigators found this landmark in their search for a focal point along the coastline. The first approach to Cote Blanche and the sister islands had to be made from the sea. Later, the sedimentary deposit of Ole Man River made a land approach possible from the north by means of a causeway built across the marsh. The islands still serve as a barrier between the earth-colored water of the river and the blue of the Gulf. At certain times of the year one can see where the muddy river meets and runs alongside the clear blue flow of the larger body of water until it is absorbed into the beauty of the Gulf.

It is not known how long the Indians knew of these islands, but in their dugouts they found their way to them before other humans arrived on the scene. It is known that before the settlers could come from inland, French and Spanish came from the Carribean, and pirates like Lafitte made the area their sanctuary. Escapees from the old world were early immigrants. Here they were equally immune to the laws of the old world and the new. Complete isolation made them untouchable.

By the time my grandfather came to Cote Blanche, there were small clusters of families—French, Spanish, and German—scattered on the shore line living by hunting and fishing. It was an untamed country, where birds, alligators, snakes and wild cats had things their own way. My father spent part of his childhood on the island and admired its lush beauty so much that he later acquired it as a summer resort for people from New Orleans who wanted to get away from it all. For three or four years my brothers and I enjoyed pioneer living—fishing, boating, swimming, hunting and roaming the hills on our ponies.

In that time there was one single immigrant on the island, a throwback to the past, who had arrived by water with no identification papers, and took up his residence without a by-your-leave. We never knew his name. We called him "Frenchy" because he never learned English. And we never knew how he acquired his dog "Prince".

He built himself a shack in a remote part of the island. It was no more than a shelter, a very small room in which there was a cot to sleep on. He dressed in hunting clothes which were well-worn. He owned a shotgun and perhaps a rifle. Fishing tackle draped a wall in his shack. He cooked once a day outdoors over an open fire. Vegetables and meat were

\*Mrs. Cordelle Kemper Ballard is the first child and only daughter of James Parkerson Kemper and Mary Cordelle Alexander. In 1979, at the age of 82, Mrs. Ballard wrote this nostalgic account of a childhood experience, much in the same style as her father wrote *Down Where the Sugar Cane Grows*. See Vol. XV, No. 4; Vol. XVI, No. 1, 2, 3, and 4. Mrs. Ballard resides in West Haven, Conn.

put into a five-pound lard tin which served as a pot, and he ate his one meal a day from the lard-tin lid.

My brother and I would ride our ponies over to his shack, and sometimes we arrived when the meal was cooking. Frenchy loved children, and we loved him. He welcomed us with smiles and a voluble greeting. We really did not know what he said most of the time. His French was not like the Cajun (Acadian) French spoken on the islands. My father understood that he had come from France as a young man to escape compulsory military service, and he had no intention of going back. He was a squatter and was completely self-supporting—fishing, hunting and trapping muskrats for their pelts. About twice a year he went to the "front" as it was called to dispose of his furs for cash. This he used for ammunition, staple groceries such as salt, sugar, coffee and flour, and perhaps a shirt or a pair of shoes. He had his own kitchen garden and caught rain water in a barrel.

We loved Frenchy but we loved Prince just as much. It delighted us to see how man and dog ate together. When Frenchy finished his meal from the lard-tin lid, he put the "plate" down on the ground for Prince to have his turn. Prince would wait for this moment sitting as close to his master as he dared, rolling his eyes with every mouthful Frenchy took. If he got too close, Frenchy would shout at him in French to move away. When the meal was over for both of them Frenchy casually wiped out the lid and the tin and put them inside his shack. He scattered the embers from the fire, and the housekeeping was done until next day and the next meal.

Prince was a yellow cur, a good-sized dog of mixed ancestry. He was a well-trained hunter and went everywhere with Frenchy. They lived a life of companionship. Sometimes my father borrowed Prince to help round up the wild hogs on the island. They ran in packs and had to be caught one by one. Dogs were used to corner the hog, grab its ear, and hang on until someone came to tie it up.

Prince was getting old and had lost the sight of one eye in a fight with a possum. Nevertheless, he could still hunt wild hogs, provided he had the help of Emmy, my fox terrier. She was more white than black and could be spotted by Prince at some distance when his failing eyesight prevented him from recognizing the dark-colored hogs. She loved to chase the hogs into the thicket where she would try to reach the ear of the one she was tackling. She was too light to cling and was shaken off repeatedly by the irate hog. These dogs had learned to work together, with Prince following her closely. When Emmy cornered the hog and jumped for the ear, Prince was right behind her and saw where to grab. He caught the ear in his jaws and hung on. The hog squealed and the man came into the thicket and tied it up. Only once did the teamwork of these animals threaten to fail.

This time Emmy went into the thicket with Prince at her heels. The men, listening on horseback, heard no sound. Emmy came out of the underbrush, looked up at my father and tried to tell him something. He scolded her and sent her back to do her work. She looked ashamed, turned tail and went back in. Still no sound came from the clump of trees. Then she and Prince appeared together looking confused. They were given another blast by my father ordering them to "catch that hog." They slunk into the woods. There was a pause. Then the hog squealed, giving the sign that they had done their duty.

The men went into the thicket and discovered why the dogs had balked. This hog had no ears. Emmy did not know what to do with this freak. When she realized that she had to do something, she jumped up and caught the hog by the snout. Prince followed and held the hog in the same way. Fortunately the variation in technique did not prevent the hog from squealing.

When we left the island to live in the city, a good many years went by before we returned for a visit. We looked for Frenchy and Prince and could not find them. None of the

families living on the island ever heard of them. Frenchy must have lived out his life in completely self-sustaining isolation with his devoted Prince to keep him company. He had no passport, no proof of existence, no tombstone, but he remains to this day a unique personality very much alive in our memories.

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### YELLOW FEVER IN WASHINGTON\*

This fever is brought to Washington, it is said, by the emigrants who recently arrived from St. Domingo. None of them have been sick, but it is thought the germs of the disease were conveyed in their clothing.

#### Report

To F. A. King, President of the Howard Association of Opelousas, by J. O. Trainor, Pres. of the Relief Assn. of Washington.

List of persons who have died of yellow fever in Washington  
and immediate vicinity during the present epidemic,  
up to Oct. 2d, 1870.

Child of Charles Keller (colored), La.; Mrs. Mark Budden, La.; Mrs. Delafosse, La.; Miss Anna Pitre, La.; Miss Motte (colored), La.; Mrs. Joseph Agnelli, La.; Daughter of F. L. Pitre, La.; Richard Hardy (colored), La.; Wd. E. Dubuisson, La.; Mrs. Onezime Leboeuf, La.; John Saunders, N. Y.; Mrs. Mouille, La.; Miss Coreil, La.; Wm Smith and 3 children, La.; Pierre Lecomte, France; Jean Roussette, France; child of Hry. Milspagh, La.; James Donovan, Ireland; James Noles, England; Capt. W. A. Foard, Alabama; Mrs. Alfred Reed, Massachusetts; John (colored), Virginia; Child of Mr. Gibson, La.; Mrs. Claude, France; Mrs. O. Veillon, La.; M. Saucier and child, La.; Oliver Lee, Virginia; Miss Powers, nativity unknown; Mr. Smith, Ireland; Celestin Vinsonneau, France; Child of Z. Bordelon, La.; Dr. J. F. Leigh, Maryland; George Allen, New York; Gilbert Gillet, Missouri; James Burlow, England.

\**Opelousas Courier*, Sept. 3, 1870.

### YELLOW FEVER LEAVES WASHINGTON AREA; GOES TO VILLE PLATTE\*

The terrible disease seems to have left Washington and Barry's Landing (where it attacked nearly everybody who had never had it before) to begin its ravages in Ville Platte, where 3 persons have already yielded to its attacks. Indeed, Washington and Barry's Landing are now nearly free from the disease, and we have not heard of a single death at either place this week. The few who still have it are now convalescent.

At Ville Platte deaths have occurred this week. Mr. Onezime Tate and his wife and child being among the number. One child is all that is left in the family.

Mrs. Prosper Daire, of the same town, is also one of the victims.

We of Opelousas can fortunately congratulate ourselves upon being exempt from the disease.

\**Opelousas Courier*, Oct. 8, 1870.



# Indices to St. Landry Parish Probate Court Suits

## 1822 - 1846

(Continued from Vol. XVII No. 2)

Compiled by Keith P. Fontenot

PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	DATE	SUIT NO.
McBride, Julianne Bogard	Heirs of Walter McBride	Feb. 21, 1825	21
McBride, Mary, wife of Cambridge Futtry	Andre Prudhomme	April 3, 1840	186
McBride, Mary, wife of Cambridge Futtry	Andrus Rider	April 3, 1840	187
McDaniel, Peter	John McDaniel	Nov. 25, 1841	205
Mechanics and Traders Bank of New Orleans	Notice for public sale of land	Mar. 30, 1839	174
Meche, David, Est. of	Tableau	April 9, 1846	305
Miramond, Anne, widow, et al.	Julien Jubertie	May 11, 1842	215
Miramond, Francois J. B., Admr.	Julien Jubertie, Exec.	Aug. 2, 1842	225
Moreau, Auguste	Hilaire Gradenigo, Sr.	May 24, 1842	217
Morgan, James, Syndic, et al.	Marianne Lange, F.W.C., et al.	Feb. 4, 1842	211
Morrow, John	William Gilland	July 27, 1842	222
Morrow, John	George B. Woodson	Dec. 28, 1842	228
Mouton, Eugene	Antoine Ignogoso, Curator of I. Savole Est.	June 24, 1831	94
Moore, William, et al.	Heirs of Walter McBride	May 4, 1825	23
Moore, William, Admr. of Murthough Collins Est.	Creditors	Oct. 20, 1828	56
Moore, William	Confirmation of land title on Bayou Teche	May 3, 1836	138
Moore, William	Confirmation of land title on Bayou Plaquemine	Sept. 19, 1838	169
Mudd, Athanasius	James Stille, Admr. of Susan Watts Est.	Aug. 16, 1832	112
Mudd, Clement A., Est. of	Opposition to curatorship	June 7, 1831	92
Negresse, Marie Anne	B. F. Linton	Sept. 16, 1831	100
O'Donegan, Mary, wife of Joseph Bonner	Heirs of William G. Knox, et al.	Aug. 3, 1835	130
Offerutt, William, et al.	Constance Collins, TU, et al.	Aug. 7, 1843	239
Olivier, Charles	Confirmation of land title on Bayou Teche	Sept. 3, 1836	142
Olivier, Elise, F. W. C.	Marcelite Pierre Joseph, F.W.C.	Sept. 24, 1844	265
Orsole, Felicite, widow	Valmond Gradenigo	Aug. 10, 1844	264
Pain, Charles, Est. of	Tableau of Dist.	Mar. 26, 1830	65
Pannell, Henrietta, wife of	Thomas A. Cooke, et al.	Feb. 4, 1841	192
Parrott, William H.	Heirs and widow of Moses Littell	June 9, 1838	166

PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	DATE	SUIT NO.
Perkins, Mary, et al.	Joshua Perkins	June 15, 1837	149
Perrodin, Antoine	Leander Bourque, Admr.	July 27, 1844	261
Petalouga, Jean-Baptiste	Jean-Marie Debaillon	Aug. 1, 1832	114
Petalouga, Jean-Baptiste	Jean-Marie Debaillon, Exec.	April 19, 1831	90
Petetin, Eugene, et al.	Pierre T. Guidry, Admr.	Aug. 8, 1844	263
Pitre, Pierre, Est. of	Tableau	June 30, 1845	277
Prewit, Maria D., wife of	Alexandre Duggins N.T. D. duggins	Sept. 29, 1826	47
Provent, Henry	Andre Nevault	Sept. 22, 1843	246
Provost, Marie Joseph, F. P. C.	George Simien, F.M.C. et ux.	July 26, 1830	76
Polret, Francois	Caroline Davis	May 20, 1845	275
Ponsony, John	Estate	Nov. 22, 1830	82
Quirk, Thomas	Heirs of John Keithley	Oct. 18, 1824	17
Quirk, Thomas	John Keys	June 2, 1830	74
Redmoud, Marguerite, Est. of	Tableau	May 27, 1846	312
Richard, Alexandre, Est. of	Tableau	May 29, 1846	313
Richard, Gerazime	Auguste Debaillon, Admr.	Mar. 4, 1845	270
Richard, Marcellin	Pierre Sylvest Richard	Sept. 8, 1830	81
Richard, Philippe, Est. of	Tableau	Aug. 23, 1845	283 & 284
Richard, Pierre Gregoire, Heirs of	William Hutchings, et ux.	Feb. 6, 1828	50
Robb, Alexandre, Est. of	Protest	May 12, 1831	102
Rogers, Martha, wife of William Wikoff	Robert Rogers	Sept. 31, 1825	31
Rogers, William H.	John Wilsare & William Brandt	Feb. 4, 1842	208
Rossi, Flavius, Est. of	Tableau	Sept. 1, 1841	203
Roy, John	Confirmation of land title in Prairie Petit Bois	Sept. 6, 1838	168
Saul, Joseph, Syndic of Gray and Taylor	William Haslett, curator et al.	March 4, 1823	5
Saunier, Charles, A/K/A Fignac	Jacques V. Girard	April 8, 1843	235
Savoie, Pierre Valcour	Tableau	August 22, 1845	282
Savoie, Pierre Valcour	Tableau	May 21, 1846	310
Savoy, Joseph, Est. of	Tableau of Dist.	June 25, 1834	122
Savoye, Rosalie, et al.	Antoine Ynogoso	Aug. 19, 1840	188
Scott, Edwin B.	William H. Parrot, et ux.	April 26, 1842	213
Sellers, John, Est. of	Tableau	March 31, 1846	303
Sharp, Mary, widow	William G. Knox	July 22, 1830	79
Sharp, Mary	Thomas B. Knox, Admr. et al.	Dec. 23, 1835	134
Sharp, Mary	Thomas B. Knox, Admr. et al.	Feb. 17, 1835	127
Sharpe, Frances S.	Gowin Harris, her husband	March 25, 1830	69

(To Be Continued)

# TO THE MEMORY

*He came to us as a stranger  
and he gathered a host of friends  
who mourn his death*

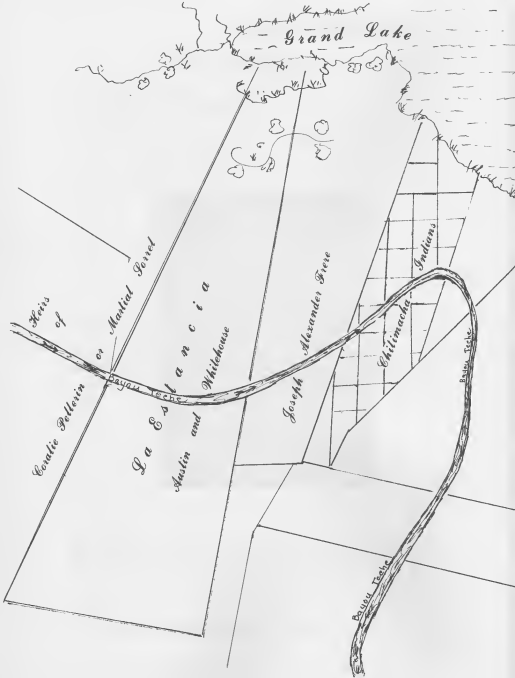


*by Gertrude C. Taylor*

Ninety-seven years ago a man, a lonely man it would seem, was laid to rest in Rosehill Cemetery in New Iberia. At the head of his brick tomb, now falling into ruin, stands a tall marble tablet, as erect as ever, seemingly defiant of the paradox of life and death. This tablet gives not only a beginning for this story, but it also instills within this story an aura of mystery and a mark of challenge.

Charles Battell Austin died May 6, 1885, at La Estancia Plantation in St. Mary Parish.<sup>1</sup>

1. La Estancia, the Spanish term for "the dwelling," "the mansion," or "the habitation," was the name of a sugar plantation located above Indian Bend on Bayou Teche. St. Mary Parish Conveyances, Book P, p. 699. See also, map included in this article.



Grand Lake

Hairs of

Conalie Pellerin

Martial Ponet

La Esplanada  
Austin and Whitehouse

Joseph Alexander Freese

Chilimacha

Indians

Bayou Teche

Bayou Teche

He was 49 years old—at the peak of his life; yet, he left no legacy save the memory of himself. And who is there to remember him now? The St. Mary Parish records give a meager story, factual, but fraught with questions to which there are no answers.

Austin's name first appears January 26, 1869, when, in partnership with J. H. and G. M. Whitehouse of New York City, he purchased La Estancia Plantation.<sup>2</sup> The transaction was made at public auction in the settlement of the estates of Frederick Adrien Frere and his wife Ann Aspasie Fusilier.<sup>3</sup> Austin, who held two-fifths share, and the Whitehouse brothers, who held the remainder, paid \$50,000 for the property, with all the buildings and improvements, \$38,800.88 of which they paid in cash.<sup>4</sup> On the same date, the Whitehouse brothers leased their share of La Estancia Plantation to Austin for three years.<sup>5</sup>

One can only assume that Austin set about transforming himself into a southern planter. Nothing in the records tells how he surmounted the serious problems of the time—labor to work the fields, transportation, flooding, epidemics, and food shortages. However, his affairs must have gone along rather smoothly, because in January of 1874, the Whitehouse brothers renewed the lease for the property to Austin for one year, beginning Jan. 1, 1874, and ending Dec. 31, 1874. The lease price was \$3,000.<sup>6</sup>

In 1876, Austin once more renewed his lease from the Whitehouse brothers.<sup>7</sup> On April 10 of that year, he formed a partnership with Richard Stout for conducting the planting business for three years, beginning January 1, 1876,<sup>8</sup> and with that agreement, he signed

2. This property measured 18 arpents front on both sides of Bayou Teche, with 80 arpents depth on the east side and the established depth on the west side. It was described as being bound above by the land of Martial Sorrel or heirs of Coralie Pellerin (daughter of Gregoire Pellerin), below by Joseph A. Frere (son of Alexander Frere and Marie-Joseph Pellerin, Frederick's sister), east by Grand Lake, and as being the same property purchased by Frederick Adrien Frere from his father, Alexander Frere, Dec. 20, 1839. An additional 19.72 acres on the east side was purchased by Frederick Frere from Martial Sorrel, April 16, 1855. *Ibid.*

3. Title to the 4,739.15-acre plantation was originally a Spanish land grant to Frederick Pellerin. American State Papers, II, 823.

Frederick Pellerin's wife was Marie Pecot of Isle de St.-Domingue. His sister, Marie-Joseph Pellerin, was the first wife of Alexander Frere. Joseph Alexander Frere was their son. D. J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, 2nd ed., 23 vols. (Privately printed, 1976-1981), I, 446.

4. It should be noted here that while this purchase took place at the height of the Radical activity during the Reconstruction period and that the three purchasers were from the North (a later document discloses that Austin was from Connecticut), they could not have been considered carpetbaggers. Rather, their activities, particularly those of the Whitehouse brothers who did not remain in the South, indicate that they were interested in investment. If, as inscribed on his tombstone, Austin had gathered a host of friends about him, he could hardly have fitted into the role of a carpetbagger, especially since St. Mary Parish was a hotbed of White Leaguers.

5. St. Mary Parish Conveyance Book R, p. 430.

6. *Ibid.*, p. 595.

7. *Ibid.*, Book S, p. 398.

By 1872, La Estancia had a cane crop. The *Louisiana Sugar Bowl* of Sept. 11, 1873, reporting on crops between Jeanerette and Franklin noted: "La Estancia has poor stubble, not enough to make seed and a corn crop which has fallen short by one-half. Their plant cane is pretty good and this crop will doubtless be much larger than last year. Crop on this place in 1861—150 hogheads."

The report on St. Mary sugar plantations in 1874 gave this account: "Austin and Whitehouse, who lost a small portion of their crop by overflow, still have 300 acres of cane, cultivated on shares. *Louisiana Sugar Bowl*, Sept. 3, 1874. At the same time that paper reported the adjoining plantation, belonging to Joseph A. Frere, was idle and now in the hands of Citizens' Bank of New Orleans.

8. St. Mary Conveyance Book S., p. 329.

another lease with the Whitehouse brothers for 1877,<sup>9</sup> and again for 1878.<sup>10</sup> However, in late February 1878, Austin and Stout had to make another agreement, one that would put Stout not only in the position of a partner but also of having full control of planting operations and crop management.<sup>11</sup>

In early February 1879, Austin and Stout signed another agreement, a partnership for the purpose of planting sugarcane, corn, etc., on La Estancia Plantation.<sup>12</sup> This change in the status of operations might have been the first ill wind of impending disaster, a foreboding strengthened with the complete destruction of the plantation sugarmill in the storm of Monday, Sept. 1, 1879.<sup>13</sup> The problems which had begun to appear as much as a year or two before suddenly climaxed on the morning of March 15, 1880, when Richard Stout ended his life.<sup>14</sup>

What happened between that fateful morning in March 1880, and Jan. 5, 1882, can only be a matter of speculation. Was the undivided one-fourth of Point Pleasant Plantation enough to satisfy the enormous amount of credit extended to La Estancia?<sup>15</sup> Surely, Austin had no assets other than his two-fifths share in the property. It is obvious that La Estancia and Austin's position there had hung in the balance long enough, and suddenly it had tipped heavily away from his side. On Jan. 5, 1882, J. H. Whitehouse and G. M. Whitehouse and Charles Battell Austin leased La Estancia to Albert J. Decuir of Iberia Parish.<sup>16</sup>

9. *Ibid.*, p. 670.

10. *Ibid.*, p. 851.

11. *Ibid.*, Book T, p. 14.

It was obvious that a change was necessary, since the contract states that one Adolph D. Smith had abandoned management of La Estancia Plantation.

12. *Ibid.*, p. 257.

It is also obvious that Austin must have been operating at a loss every year. He had experienced all the problems of the times—flooding, labor, and crop-failure, and he could no longer bear the burden of debt alone.

13. *Louisiana Sugar Bowl*, Sept. 4, 1879.

14. Richard Stout committed suicide at his plantation, Point Pleasant, on the Atchafalaya, two miles above Morgan City. He was a native of Kentucky, about 40 years old. The newspaper reported that he had been suffering for some time from great depression caused by business difficulties. *Ibid.*, March 25, 1880.

Stout's succession revealed that he had been deeply involved in the financial difficulties of La Estancia Plantation since 1878. His probate records contained a letter as follows:

H. D. Smith, Esq.

April 7, 1878

Dear Sir, Your favour received a few days since in regard to money matters, and contents noted. I regret to say that it is utterly impossible for me to pay it now, but hope that I can make some arrangement soon to do so. I have the whole thing to carry at La Estancia. I hope to get a part of my money back, at least I think so after just looking at the prospects today.

Yours truly,  
R. Stout

St. Mary Parish Succession No. 2410.

15. Stout's succession showed him to own the undivided one-fourth of Point Pleasant Plantation. A large stack of unpaid bills for goods and supplies bought from New Orleans merchants and charged to La Estancia were also filed in his succession.

16. St. Mary Parish Conveyance Book U, p. 381. The lease was for one year. Austin was then a resident of St. Mary Parish. Albert J. Decuir was the grandson of Maximilien Decuir, of Iberia Parish. He married Aurelie Pecot of the Isle of St.-Domingue, Oct. 28, 1870, in the Charenton Church. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, IX, 106.

Four months later, May 5, 1882, Austin, then cited as a resident of West Winsted, Conn., sold his undivided two-fifths of La Estancia Plantation to George M. Whitehouse of New York, for the sum of one dollar in cash.<sup>17</sup> Through a second instrument Austin sold his share of all implements on the plantation under the same terms.<sup>18</sup>

June 29, 1882, Whitehouse sold La Estancia Plantation to Albert Decuir for \$30,000, exactly the amount he and his brother had originally invested in it.<sup>19</sup>

So ended the role of sugar planter for Charles Battell Austin. After the transaction in which he disposed of his interest in the plantation, his name disappeared from all records only to reappear after his death at La Estancia, May 6, 1885. Thursday, May 7, he was buried from the Church of the Epiphany in New Iberia and interred in Rosehill Cemetery.<sup>20</sup>

June 26, 1885, a petition was filed in St. Mary Parish Court stating that Charles B. Austin had died some time before, leaving an estate consisting of personal property and owing some debts.<sup>21</sup> The petitioner was one of Austin's creditors. Wherefore, the court appointed George B. Shepherd to take inventory, Marius Sennett and Edward Knight to be appraisers. Articles inventoried were one horse, one buggy, two trunks with clothing, and one kitchen stove and furniture. Value of the inventory—\$155.00.

Too many years have gone by for anyone to remember Charles B. Austin, and no one now seems to have ever heard of him. Only documented fragments remain to meet the challenge; mystery persists even after this attempt to assemble a clearer picture. Why was this stranger so eager to create a new life and so determined to remain in it in the face of so many difficulties? Were these friends he gathered the force that drew him back to La Estancia even though he had lost all claim there? And who were this host whose friendship bore the lonely stranger through the remainder of his short life and who sought to preserve his memory beyond the grave?

17. St. Mary Parish Conveyance Book U, p. 591.

18. *Ibid.*, p. 593.

19. *Ibid.*, p. 627. The instrument stated that it was well understood by the two parties that the sale did not include the contents of the dwelling house . . . nor did it include any property put on said plantation by Charles B. Austin on which there was any claim.

The said vendee, A. J. Decuir declared that "he does grant a full release and discharge of all claims of whatsoever nature against Charles B. Austin, one of the former owners of said plantation."

20. The following obituary appeared in the *New Iberia Enterprise*, May 9, 1885.

Death—Mr. C. B. Austin, a former owner of La Estancia Plantation in St. Mary Parish and who will be remembered by many of our town people, having spent his summers in New Iberia of late years, died at his old place last Wednesday and was buried from the Episcopal church in this place the following day. Peace to his soul.

21. St. Mary Parish Estate No. 2514, filed June 25, 1885.

CENSUS OF THE WHITE POPULATION  
OF OPELOUSAS

(continued from Vol. XVII, No. 2)

(Compiled By Margaret Ann Conrad)

Householder	Age	Relationship to Householder	Occupation	Person's place of Birth	Father's place of Birth	Mother's place of Birth
Cinnie	6	Daughter	At Home	La.	Prussia	Prussia
Morris	4	Son	At Home	La.	Prussia	Prussia
Mary	2	Daughter	At Home	La.	Prussia	Prussia
Isaac, Solomon	50		Retail Merchant	Laurin	Laurin	Laurin
Rosalie	35	Wife	Housekpr.	Alsace	Alsace	Alsace
Pauline	13	Daughter	At School	La.	Laurin	Alsace
Corinne	8	Daughter	At School	La.	Laurin	Alsace
Isadore	5	Son	At Home	La.	Laurin	Alsace
Cochran, William	35		Saloon Keeper	La.	Penn.	La.
Emelie	34	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Richard, Clementine	53	Mother in law	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Litard, Pierre	48		Baker	France	France	France
Rosina	50	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Milburn, Aurella	21	Niece	At Home	La.	Ala.	La.
Going, Clara	16	Niece	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Laroque, Paschal	68	Assistant	Baker	France	France	France
Payse, G.	38		Laborer	France	France	France
Angeleque	26	Wife	Housekpr.	France	France	France
Anna	12	Daughter	At School	La.	France	France
Eugene	9	Son	At School	La.	France	France
Henry	6	Son	At School	La.	France	France
Francis	3	Son	At Home	La.	France	France
Feuta, Mary	73		Quilt Maker	La.	Va.	La.
Murrell, Thomas	44	Son	Blacksmith	La.	Va.	La.
Gibbs, Joseph	68		Carriage Trimmer	England	England	England
Elizabeth	28	Daughter	Housekpr.	La.	England	N. Y.
Joseph	22	Son	Clerk	La.	La.	N. Y.
Andrus, Addison	56		Sugar Boiler	La.	La.	La.
Tansey, L. T.	46		Lawyer	N. Y.	Ireland	England
Louider H.	32	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Penn.	La.
Georgina	12	Daughter	At School	La.	N. Y.	La.
W. Rop.	7	Son	At School	La.	N. Y.	La.
McChinley, Louisa	54	Mother in law	At Home	La.	La.	La.



James B.	25	Brother in law	Clerk	La.	Penn.	La.
Celina J.	23	Sister in law	At Home	La.	Penn.	La.
Benjamin F.	21	Brother in law	Assit. County Clerk	La.	Penn.	La.
Louis V.	18	Brother in law	Assit. Watch Maker	La.	Penn.	La.
Lorinne L.	15	Sister in law	At School	La.	Penn.	La.
Andrus, Clenton B.	39		Retail Merchant	La.	La.	La.
Cecilia	27	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Delia	8	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Annie	6	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Adolph G.	5	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Cecelia	3	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Martha	5m	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Gordon, Aimie	5	Niece	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Roy, Jno. V.	57		Butcher	La.	La.	La.
Catherine S.	48	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Edgar W.	27	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Henry D.	25	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Corinne	17	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Mary W.	10	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Matilda	8	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Sarah	21	Sister in law	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Richard, Natalie	41		Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
George	18	Son	Apprentice Baker	La.	La.	La.
Corinne	15	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Philomen	13	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Millis	8	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
William M.	13	Nephew	At School	La.	La.	La.
Boutte, Leontine	68	Mother	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Richard, Jos. D.	48	Husband	County Clerk	La.	La.	La.
Chachere, Veillond	79		Wagoner	La.	France	Miss.
Moore, Lucinda	15	Grandchild	At School	La.	Va.	La.
Henry	22	Adopted Son	Day Laborer	La.	-	-

CENSUS OF THE WHITE POPULATION  
OF OPELOUSAS

(continued from Vol. XVII, No. 2)

(Compiled By Margaret Ann Conrad)

Householder	Age	Relationship to Householder	Occupation	Person's place of Birth	Father's place of Birth	Mother's place of Birth
Cannie	6	Daughter	At Home	La.	Prussia	Prussia
Morris	4	Son	At Home	La.	Prussia	Prussia
Mary	2	Daughter	At Home	La.	Prussia	Prussia
Isaac, Solomon	50		Retail Merchant	Laurin	Laurin	Laurin
Rosalie	35	Wife	Housekpr.	Alsace	Alsace	Alsace
Pauline	13	Daughter	At School	La.	Laurin	Alsace
Corinne	8	Daughter	At School	La.	Laurin	Alsace
Isadore	5	Son	At Home	La.	Laurin	Alsace
Cochran, William	35		Saloon Keeper	La.	Penn.	La.
Enelie	34	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Richard, Clementine	53	Mother in law	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Litard, Pierre	48		Baker	France	France	France
Rosina	50	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Milburn, Aurelia	21	Niece	At Home	La.	Ala.	La.
Going, Clara	16	Niece	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Laroque, Paschal	68	Assistant	Baker	France	France	France
Payse, G.	38		Laborer	France	France	France
Angeleque	26	Wife	Housekpr.	France	France	France
Anna	12	Daughter	At School	France	France	France
Eugene	9	Son	At School	La.	France	France
Henry	6	Son	At School	La.	France	France
Francis	3	Son	At Home	La.	France	France
Feuta, Mary	73		Quilt Maker	La.	Va.	La.
Murrell, Thomas	44	Son	Blacksmith	La.	Va.	La.
Gibbs, Joseph	68		Carriage Trimmer	England	England	England
Elizabeth	28	Daughter	Housekpr.	La.	England	N.Y.
Joseph	22	Son	Clerk	La.	England	N.Y.
Andrus, Addison	56		Sugar Boiler	La.	La.	La.
Tansey, L. T.	46		Lawyer	N.Y.	Ireland	England
Louider H.	32	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Penn.	La.
Georgina	12	Daughter	At School	La.	N.Y.	La.
W. Rep.	7	Son	At School	La.	N.Y.	La.
McChinley, Louisa	54	Mother in law	At Home	La.	La.	La.

James B.	25	Brother in law	Clerk	La.	Penn.	La.
Colina J.	23	Sister in law	At Home	La.	Penn.	La.
Benjamin F.	21	Brother in law	Assit. County Clerk	La.	Penn.	La.
Louis V.	18	Brother in law	Assit. Watch Maker	La.	Penn.	La.
Lorinne L.	15	Sister in law	At School	La.	Penn.	La.
Andrus, Clenton B.	39		Retail Merchant	La.	La.	La.
Cecilia	27	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Delia	8	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Annie	6	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Adolph G.	5	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Cecelia	3	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Martha	5m	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Cordon, Aimie	5	Niece	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Roy, Jno. V.	57		Butcher	La.	La.	La.
Catherine S.	48	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Edgar W.	27	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Henry D.	25	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Corinne	17	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Mary W.	10	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Matilda	8	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Sarah	21	Sister in law	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Richard, Natalie	41		Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
George	18	Son	Apprentice Baker	La.	La.	La.
Corinne	15	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Philomen	13	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Mellis	8	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
William M.	13	Nephew	At School	La.	La.	La.
Boutte, Leontine	68	Mother	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Richard, Jos. D.	48	Husband	County Clerk	La.	La.	La.
Chachere, Veillond	79		Wagoner	La.	France	Miss.
Moore, Lucinda	15	Grandchild	At School	La.	Va.	La.
Henry	22	Adopted Son	Day Laborer	La.	-	-

Housholder	Age	Relationship to Householder	Occupation	Person's place of Birth	Father's place of Birth	Mother's place of Birth
Morris, John	45		Carpenter	La.	-	-
Alexandrine	30	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
John	8	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
William	3	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Deputy, Celena	62		Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Rose	25	Daughter	At Home	La.	De.	La.
Lewis	23	Son	Town Constable	La.	De.	La.
Marie	22	Daughter in law	Housekpr.	La.	Bavaria	La.
Winnie	4	Grandchild	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Mandel, Micheal	23		Clerk	Alsace	Alsace	Alsace
Bloch, Morris	18		Clerk	France	France	France
Helch, John C.	21		Porter in Hotel	La.	Germany	Germany
Gil, Jules	24		Lawyer	La.	La.	La.
Ida	18	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Joseph A.	27	Brother	Clerk	La.	La.	La.
Ameline	69	Mother	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Darby, John	15	Brother in law	At School	La.	La.	La.
Edward	3	Nephew	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Gelrin, John	53		Brick Mason	Penn.	Penn.	Penn.
Amelia	49	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Md.	La.
Mary	25	Daughter	At Home	La.	Penn.	La.
Emma	21	Daughter	At Home	La.	Penn.	La.
William	10	Son	At School	La.	Penn.	La.
Theodore	8	Son	At School	La.	Penn.	La.
E. McLane	5	Son	At Home	La.	Penn.	La.
Maxwell, W. D.	80		Carriage Maker	Md.	England	England
Littell, Robt. M.	18		Medical Student	La.	La.	La.
Hardy, Frank J.	17		Assist. Post Master	La.	La.	La.
? , Gustave	19		Clerk	La.	La.	La.
Zurment ? , Christian	50		Shoemaker	Saxony	Saxony	Saxony
Adreinne	53	Wife	Housekpr.	France	France	France
Emile	14	Son	At School	La.	Saxony	France

Brand, Conrad	36		Baker	Wurtemberg	Wurtemberg	Wurtemberg
Clympe	32	Wife	Keeps Bread Stand	La.	Wurtemberg	Wurtemberg
Roy, Alicia	13	Orphaned	At School	La.	La.	La.
Laos, Dorothy	39		Millner	La.	Wurtemberg	France
Florence	10	Daughter	At School	La.	Germany	La.
Clympha	9	Daughter	At School	La.	Germany	La.
Lacombe, Austin	37		Hotel Kpr.	La.	La.	La.
Corinne	25	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
A. Laurent	7	Son	At School	La.	La.	La.
Blanche	5	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Helen	3	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Lucille	1	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Arthur	20	Nephew	Clerk	La.	La.	La.
Richard, Paul	25	Cousin	Deputy Sheriff	La.	La.	La.
Parish Jail						
Andrus, Albert D.	49		Jail Keeper	La.	La.	La.
Jeannie, Adolph	40	Prisoner	Farmer	La.	La.	La.
Elmer, Love O.	25	Prisoner	Saddler	La.	La.	La.
Slane, Thomas	24	Prisoner	Farmer	La.	Ky.	La.
Rankler, Edward	25	Prisoner	Farm Laborer	La.	La.	La.
Calloway, L. H.	40		Stage Driver	Va.	Va.	Va.
Beauchamp, Edward	22		Stage Driver	La.	-	-
Walker, Samuel R.	34		Notary Public	La.	Miss.	N.J.
Marg. E.	26	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Italy	La.
Susan E.	2	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Louis B.	17	Brother	Printer's Devil	La.	Miss.	N.J.
Mdd, John T.	29	Cousin	U.S. Mail Employee	La.	La.	La.
Dubies, Joseph	47		Day Laborer	La.	France	La.
Pamela	28	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Eva	10	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	La.
Simon	8	Son	At School	La.	La.	La.

## Book Review

EATING, DRINKING, AND VISITING IN THE SOUTH: *An Informal History*. By Joe Gray Taylor. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982. 184 pp. Contents, preface and acknowledgments, illustrations, notes, bibliographical essay, index. Cloth. \$22.50.)

The book begins by describing the food of the frontiersmen, then continues on a chronological and, at times, necessarily repetitive discussion of southern culinary tastes as they evolved to the present. Taylor claims no definitiveness for the work in his preface, but he seemingly covers it all.

The mainstays of the southern diet—cornbread and pork and then later biscuits are discussed at length. Try reading the section on biscuits without wanting one. Southerners also ate wild game (possum and rabbit were favorites), fish, turnips, cowpeas, nuts, molasses, sorghum syrup, and numerous other edibles including special treats like ice cream. The plentiful plantation dishes of the Old South appear in a chapter aptly titled "High on the Hog." They are in marked contrast to the plain food of the poorer folk and slaves, and the later fare of sharecroppers of both races that brought about such diseases as pellagra.

Regional dishes within the South are touched upon including a soup called Kentucky burgoo and a dish known as Brunswick stew that was cooked farther south, and what writer from south Louisiana could not help but mention delicious, spicy gumbo and red beans and rice. The meager diets of the unfortunate Confederates, both civilian and soldier, are presented, and also the usually bad, but occasionally quite good, food of inns, taverns, and restaurants from early to modern times.

Contemporary convenience foods, such as canned biscuits, which Taylor does not like, are discussed along with fast food places, where people "eat abominations." (p. 153) Other modern developments, such as the electric refrigerator, however, have helped to improve the southern condition immeasurably.

The main southern drink that usually accompanied all the food was water, but milk was also used especially for the young. Whiskey was abundant and widely imbibed before the Civil War and, to a lesser extent, wine and beer, though beer was not very popular until present times. The book even includes a short section on Coca Cola.

Social activities have included such events as work frolics, corn shuckings, house raisings, logrollings, barbecues, picnics, church dinners, and several now outdated wedding practices. These affairs seem to have been thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, even when some of them turned into fights brought on by the spirits sometimes consumed there. Planters enjoyed visiting one another, of course, and examples of the much revered, but actually selective, southern hospitality are given.

Many antebellum southerners also liked to vacation at resort areas. Taylor writes that only the upper classes did so, an assertion the reviewer would call debatable at least as far as Louisiana is concerned. Three mineral springs resort areas in St. Landry Parish were frequented by many less than wealthy persons.

Some of the material used in the book has been drawn from Taylor's early years in Tennessee, when he was in contact with relatives and others who had lived in some of the periods discussed. This has enabled him to impart an interesting personal touch to the work. The result is an excellent book that should remain a standard for some time to come.

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## CENSUS OF THE WHITE POPULATION OF OPELOUSAS, 1880

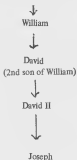
### Conclusion

Compiled by Margaret Ann Conrad .....193

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# Peebles

David Peebles married Elspet Mackie in Scotland. They came to Virginia in 1649. He died in 1658. Among those in Brunswick County (later called Greensville County) receiving grants of land issued by the Royal Government were Henry Peebles, July 24, 1726, 240 acres and John Peebles (Peebles).



↓  
Dr. Sterling Peebles  
married  
Martha (Patsy) Wilkins April 20, 1788.



*Henry Wyche Peebles  
(1795-1864)*

Photo courtesy of James Wyche

Joseph Douglas (1787-1860)  
married Martha Barrett

Dudley R. Peebles

Henry Wyche Peebles  
married Ann Wilkins Cocke (1835)

Dr. James Sterling Peebles  
Mary Frances Smith

Mary Robinson Peebles  
John Fletcher Wyche

Dudley T. Peebles

Irene Dumesnil

Henry W. Peebles

Jack Peebles

Lucy Exson

Ann Peebles

William McPherson

Sterling Peebles

Jennie Harper

# Virginians In The Teche Country

Continued from Vol. XVII, No. 3

## PART V

### *The Ties That Bind*

By Gertrude C. Taylor

Among the earliest settlers of that portion of Brunswick County which later became Greenville County in Virginia were the Peebles and the Wyche families.<sup>1</sup> In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries these two families became allied with each other as well as with the Wilkins, Maclin, Cocke, and Walker families. When economic factors associated with the land and the crops they cultivated became too confusing and overwhelming, younger members of the Peebles, Wyche, and Walker families journeyed westward, finally finding the "Promised Land," it seems, in antebellum Louisiana.<sup>2</sup>

Joseph Douglas and Henry Wyche Peebles were sons of Dr. Sterling Peebles and Martha (Patsy) Wilkins and the grandsons of Douglass Wilkins and Tabitha Ann Wyche.<sup>3</sup> Henry Peebles was born in Brunswick County, Va., in 1795. Although nothing is known of his early life and his education, the course of his affairs proved him to be a man of culture, intelligence, and ability. His association with his uncle, John Douglas Wilkins, a tie which finally brought him to his home in Louisiana, could have begun at an early age, since Dr. Sterling Peebles died in 1811, possibly leaving Henry, age 16, a ward of his uncle.

Some time before 1830, Henry Peebles and his older brother, Joseph Douglas started their westward adventure. Evidence points to the fact that Henry stopped off along the way in Lawrence County, Alabama,<sup>4</sup> while Joseph and his wife, Martha Barrett of North Carolina, proceeded into Mississippi, arriving there in late 1829 or early 1830.<sup>5</sup> It must be remembered that in 1828 and 1829 Henry Peebles and his uncle, John Douglas Wilkins had come to Louisiana and had purchased in partnership, large tracts of public and private

1. Members of the Wyche Family were Henry, William, James, George, and Peter. Between 1726 and 1762, the royal government issued grants of land in Brunswick County to George, Peter, and George Wyche, Jr., and to Henry and John Peebles. Douglas Summers Brown, ed., *Sketches of Greenville County, Virginia, 1650-1697* (Richmond, Va., 1975), pp. 528, 757.

Henry Wyche, son of Henry Wyche, Rector of Sutton Church, Surrey, England, was born in Surrey January 27, 1648. His name first appears in Surrey Co., Va., in 1649. He died in 1712, leaving four sons: William, George, Henry, and James. See "Wyche Family," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st series, XIV (1905-1906), 59; hereinafter cited as WMQ.

2. See the introduction to the articles series, Vol. XVII, No. 1 (March, 1982), 5.

3. Tabitha Ann Wyche probably was the daughter of James (I) Wyche and granddaughter of Henry (I). If this be the case, then Tabitha Ann Wyche Wilkins' mother was Leah Maclin, WMQ, 1st series, XIV (1905-1906), 60. She would also have been the great, great-aunt of John Fletcher Wyche, Sr., *ibid.*, 60-106. Henry Wyche Peebles' brothers were Joseph Douglas and Dudley R. Peebles. Joseph was eight years older than Henry. No records are available concerning Dudley R. Peebles.

4. On December 12, 1833, A. Pressal of Hinds County, Miss., sold to Henry W. Peebles of Lawrence Co., Ala., 480 acres of land for \$3,800. Hinds County Conveyances, Bk. 2, p. 269.

5. Joseph Peebles made his first purchase in Hinds County from Richard Scruggs, March 6, 1830. The land was described as being in Sec. 12, T. 6, R. 3W. *Ibid.*, p. 508.

lands in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana.<sup>6</sup> Their business attended to, both men left Louisiana, Wilkins returning to Virginia to prepare for his removal to Louisiana and Peebles to places unknown, possibly to Alabama. Indications are that Peebles moved from Alabama to Mississippi in late December, 1833, when he made his first land purchase there. This purchase, along with one from his cousin, Douglas Wilkins, for 240 acres made August 13, 1834, and the purchase of some public lands, constituted his entire land holding in Mississippi. His brother, Joseph, on the other hand, had many land transactions between 1830 and 1835, purchasing many acres of land and occasionally selling a parcel or two.<sup>7</sup>

On September 1, 1835, Henry W. Peebles, then 40 years old, married Ann Wilkins Cocke, his first cousin,<sup>8</sup> and declared himself a citizen of Christian County, Ky.<sup>9</sup> In 1847, he bought from John J. Cocke of Monroe County, Miss., the land Cocke had inherited from his mother.<sup>10</sup> From that time until a time between mid-1850 and 1852, the year John D. Wilkins died, the family resided first in Kentucky and later on their plantation in Mississippi, with Henry Peebles making occasional visits to his plantation in Louisiana.<sup>11</sup> Mary Robinson, the first of their six children, was born in Kentucky. Dudley, Henry, Jr., Jack, and Ann were born in Mississippi. Only Sterling, the youngest, was born after the family moved to their St. Mary Parish plantation.<sup>12</sup>

6. See Part I of this series, Vol. XVII, No. 1 (March, 1982), 11-13. Whether Wilkins and his nephew left Virginia at the same time or whether they met later to form their partnership is not known. It is a matter of record, however, that Wilkins carried the management of the partnership for many years, with only infrequent visits from his nephew while he lived in Mississippi and in Kentucky.

7. This conclusion was drawn from Hinds County conveyance records, 1830-1834.

It can be assumed that Joseph D. and Henry W. Peebles had substantial inheritance from their parents, either in money or land which they sold before leaving Virginia, because both had cash with which to buy property—Joseph in Mississippi and Louisiana and Henry in Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Louisiana. Henry Peebles also lent money to his uncle, John D. Wilkins, at the time of their joint land purchase in Louisiana. See preceding article in Vol. XVII, No. 2, 62.

8. Christian County, Ky., Deed Bk. Y, 153.

Ann Wilkins Cocke, the daughter of John Willis Cocke and Tabitha Ann Wilkins and the sister of John D. Wilkins and Martha Wilkins Peebles was born in 1818. She was, then, less than half the age of her cousin when she married him. John Cocke and Ann Wilkins were married in Brunswick County, August 28, 1807. Lyon G. Tyler, ed., "Register of Marriage Bonds," *Tyler's Quarterly Magazine*, II (1967), 254.

He died September 11, 1822, having named Dr. Benjamin Wilkins and Thomas B. Warren as executors of his estate. Charles Mayfield Meachum, *A History of Christian County, Kentucky*, (Nashville, Tenn., 1930).

9. This document is in Christian County Courthouse, dated September 27, 1838.

10. It is not known whether John J. Cocke was an uncle or a brother of Peebles' wife.

11. April 3, 1848, Ann Cocke Peebles wrote from Bolton Depot, Miss., to her sister, Martha Cocke Henry, in Hopkinsville, Ky.:

In My last letter I wrote that we would have been about [sic] the first of April. This is the first day my old man has left me again for Attakapas. He is anxious about a piece of woodland in the swamp adjoining the plantation, and Cousin Sterling promised to write to him about it when it was surveyed, and he has not written yet, so he concluded to go and see about it himself. . . . Mr. Peebles will be gone two or three weeks and start back as soon as we can after. . . .

From the letter collection of James Wyche family of New Iberia. Cousin Sterling was the son of Joseph D. Peebles. Apparently he was living on his uncle's plantation in 1848. The census of 1850 lists him and his family in that locality.

12. This information derived from the 1860 Census of St. Mary Parish. This record gave only the ages of the children. Since this family was not included in the 1850 census and as it has been established that Henry Peebles did not arrive in Louisiana with his family until some time after that, we can deduce that only Sterling, the youngest boy, age 4 in 1860, could have been born in Louisiana.

The year after his brother married and established his domicile in Kentucky, Joseph Peebles ventured to the Teche Country to fulfill his dream of owning and operating a sugar plantation there. Possibly led there by his uncle, John D. Wilkins, Peebles bought, on April 1, 1836, the well-developed and much-desired Darby Plantation in St. Martin Parish,<sup>13</sup> a place of historic as well as economic importance. In June of the same year, Peebles added to his newly acquired plantation 1,348 acres of preemptive land adjacent to the northeast boundary.<sup>14</sup>

The history of Darby Plantation begins with three Spanish land grants on Bayou Teche, about two leagues below the church in St. Martinville, at a place sometimes called Isle Piverd and sometimes described as being in the area of False Point (Fausse Pointe). (In later years it became known as Anse St. Marc.) These Spanish land grants had been awarded to Augustin Grevemberg, Jean-Baptiste Grevemberg, and Jean-Baptiste Cavalier, a soldier from New Orleans and an absentee land owner. In 1780, Jean-Baptiste St. Marc Darby<sup>15</sup> bought the three tracts to add to his already existing and yet uncultivated plantation, a land grant which he received in 1776. The distinguishing feature of this purchase of 1780 as it later went from one owner to another was its consistent description: 27 arpents front by 40 arpents deep on the right or west bank of the Teche and 39 arpents front by the depth allowed in the survey on the left or east bank. The location of this plantation was economically important because it occupied a position on the bayou where portage was made between the two points of its oxbow; thus, the traveler could avoid the distance around the Fausse Pointe area. The small settlement known as St. Maure had sprung up at the point of portage.<sup>16</sup>

Darby probably did not come to live in the Attakapas until he received his commission as commandant of New Iberia in September, 1787.<sup>17</sup> Through marriages of his sons and daughter, the family became allied with other prominent families in the Attakapas, namely,

13. This sale was from Neuville Declouet, acting for himself, for Joseph Dubuclet, and for his sister, the widow of Clair Benoit de St. Clair. Early St. Martin Parish Conveyance Bk. 9, 490. The plantation is described as being in two tracts: 1st. 27 arpents front on the right bank of Bayou Teche by 40 arpents depth, bounded above by the lands of A. Dumartail and below by Bernard Dauterive, together with all improvements; 2nd, a tract located in the same place, having a front of 39 arpents front on the left bank of the bayou, by a depth according to survey, bounded above by Frasil Judice, below by Joseph Dubuclet. The sale was for \$15,000 payable in three equal notes, endorsed by John D. Wilkins to be paid out by April, 1840.

14. This tract was located in T. 11, ranges 6 and 7E. See map which follows. A receipt for this purchase is recorded with the land claims in the Register of State Land Office of La., microfilm No. 258. The sale was made June 11, 1836. Receipt No. 1528 of the Receiver of Public Monies indicates that Peebles paid \$1.25 per acre, amounting to \$1,685.00 for the entire lot.

15. Jean-Baptiste St. Marc Darby was the grandson of Jonathan Darby, an Englishman who came to New Orleans about 1718-1719 as an accountant for the Company of the Indies. In 1776, he received a Spanish land grant from Luis de Unzuaga. See Gertrude C. Taylor, *Land Grants Along the Teche*, Part II (Lafayette, La., 1980). In 1780, Darby, then married to Francoise Pellerin, the daughter of Louis Gerard Pellerin and Marie Marthe Hubert de Bellaire, bought part of the property from Jean-Baptiste Grevemberg. St. Martin Parish Conveyance Bk. 1, No. 310. This sale, dated Aug. 3, 1780, was made for 10 arpents front on each bank of the Teche with ordinary depth, complete with titles, for 400 piastres. No records on the sale of the other two tracts are available. In her papers filed for certification of titles to the three tracts of land, Francoise Pellerin states that the land was purchased from the three land grantees. Her claims must have been valid, since they were certified as A-1.

16. The settlement of St. Maure was in the vicinity of Dauphin Bridge. The distance between the two points of the bayou is approximately 1.5 miles.

17. Glenn R. Conrad, comp., *New Iberia: Essays on the Town and Its People* (Lafayette, La., 1979), p. 11.

LAFAYETTE PARISH

NEW IBERIA

OLIVIER

PATOUTVILLE

Carnes

LAKE TASSIE

LAKE LACON

Map No. 1

Property of Joseph D. Peebles at Anse St. Marc.

Property of Henry Wyche Peebles (after complete separation from John D. Wilkins)

LAFAYETTE PARISH

LAKE TASSIE

LAKE LACON

NEW IBERIA

OLIVIER

PATOUTVILLE

Carnes

Map No. 1

Property of Joseph D. Peebles at Anse St. Marc.

Property of Henry Wyche Peebles (after complete separation from John D. Wilkins)

LAFAYETTE PARISH

NEW IBERIA

OLIVIER

PATOUTVILLE

Cane

INSET

Map No. 1

Property of Joseph D. Peebles at Anse St. Marc.

Property of Henry Wyche Peebles (after complete separation from John D. Wilkins)

LAFAYETTE PARISH

LAKE TASSIE

LAKE LACON

NEW IBERIA

OLIVIER

PATOUTVILLE

Carnes

Map No. 1

Property of Joseph D. Peebles at Anse St. Marc.

Property of Henry Wyche Peebles (after complete separation from John D. Wilkins)

LAFAYETTE PARISH

LAKE TASSIE

LAKE LACON

NEW IBERIA

OLIVIER

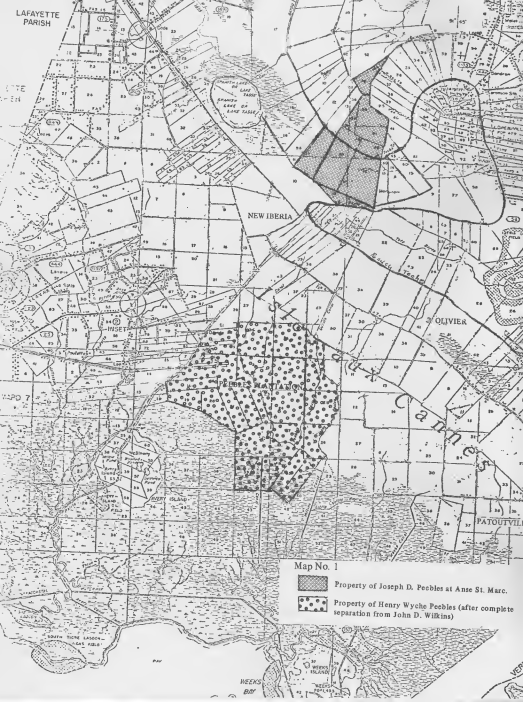
PATOUTVILLE

Carnes

Map No. 1

Property of Joseph D. Peebles at Anse St. Marc.

Property of Henry Wyche Peebles (after complete separation from John D. Wilkins)



LAFAYETTE PARISH

NEW IBERIA

OLIVIER

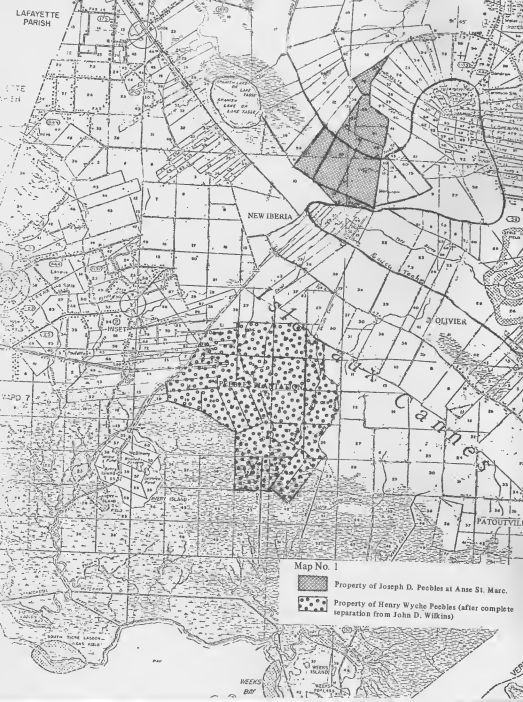
PATOUTVILLE

Carnes

Map No. 1

Property of Joseph D. Peebles at Anse St. Marc.

Property of Henry Wyche Peebles (after complete separation from John D. Wilkins)



LAFAYETTE PARISH

NEW IBERIA

OLIVIER

PATOUTVILLE

Map No. 1

Property of Joseph D. Peebles at Anse St. Marc.

Property of Henry Wyche Peebles (after complete separation from John D. Wilkins)

Dauterive, Declouet, Dubuclet, and Deblanc.<sup>18</sup> Jean-Baptiste St. Marc Darby died in 1795 at age 50.<sup>19</sup> His wife, Francoise Pellerin, died June 3, 1812.<sup>20</sup>

After her husband's death, Francoise Darby, with her sons, continued operation of the plantation. In her will she requested that the plantation and slaves be divided among her children. However, in June 1811, she made a donation of land and slaves to each of her three sons.<sup>21</sup> In the settlement of her estate a year after her death,<sup>22</sup> the plantation at Isle Piverd was offered for sale at auction. A notice appearing in the *Louisiana Courier*, September 15, 1813, reads as follows:

#### SALE AT AUCTION

On the 1st of November next, will be sold at Attakapas on the spot hereafter mentioned

##### A Plantation

Belonging to the estate of the late Lady Francoise Pellerin, widow of Jn-Bte. St. Marc Darby, situated in the parish of St. Martin, County of Attakapas-quarter of False Point, two leagues distance from the Church, measuring on the western side of the Teche River 27 arpents in front by ordinary depth and on the eastern bank 39 arpents; upon which stand a dwelling house newly built and erected upon large frames, divided into seven rooms; another house consisting of five rooms, destined to the lodging of the overseer; two large stores erected upon frames, kitchen, hard, and garden; a sugar house the mill of which is moved by a water stream and can supply two sets of complete kettles with sufficient liquor, a drying house in which 200 hhds can be stored, a distillery in good and complete order; 250 arpents of that plantation are well fenced; eighty and odd arpents of sprout canes with the quantity of plants which the purchaser might stand in need of for his planting of canes. The said plantation is well supplied with wood according to the plot which will be exhibited at the time of the sale.

For reasons unknown, this sale did not take place, and the property remained in the estate to be settled among the heirs.<sup>23</sup> Some three years later, Bartholome Octave Dela-

18. These names appear in the chain of transactions involving Darby Plantation.

19. Donald J. Hebert, comp., *Southwest Louisiana Records*, 23 vols. (Eunice, La., 1974-1981), I, 152.

20. St. Martin Parish Succession No. 114. In her will, dated December 5, 1810, Francoise Pellerin Darby names her children as follows: Jean-Louis, Marie Marthe, Bartholome Francois, and Etienne Ursin. Jean-Louis married Elizabeth Aspasie Deblanc, daughter of Louis-Charles Deblanc and Elizabeth Poupponne d'Erneville. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, I, 152. Marie Marthe married Joseph Dubuclet. Succession of Joseph Dubuclet, daughter of Louis Charles and Elizabeth Poupponne d'Erneville. *Ibid.* Etienne Ursin married Erase Fuselier de la Claire. *Ibid.*, I, 230. Their daughter Marie Celeste married Antoine Bernard Dauterive. *Ibid.*

21. St. Martin Parish Donations, Bk. I. The land divided was from the original tract granted to Darby in 1776. The remainder of the property was to go into the estate.

22. Francoise Pellerin died June 3, 1812, age 55. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, II, 710.

23. A document, dated December 15, 1815, included in the succession of Francoise Pellerin states that two tracts remain in succession, Isle Piverd on the west and another on the east. The family acknowledges a debt of 78 piastres to their uncle and the estate is kept in the family. The delay in settling is due to the war and the cotton blight.

houssaye, a cousin of the Darby heirs, bought the property with all improvements in two separate sales, for a total of \$1,000.<sup>24</sup> Delahoussaye occupied the place until 1826, when he sold it, identified by its distinctive measurements and with slaves and all improvements, to Joseph Dubuclet and Clair Benoit de St. Clair.<sup>25</sup>



*This house, well-kept for its 135 years, was known after 1860 as Belmont Plantation House. Evidence points to the fact that it was built before 1813 and that it was the same house described in the newspaper notice of the auction sale of Darby Plantation. The house, after passing from the Darby heirs, had been occupied by the families of Dr. Joseph Dudley,*

*Balthazar Neville Declouet, James Sterling Peebles, Edmund Wilkins, John Fletcher Wyche, and James Wright Wyche, Sr. In 1947, when the house was occupied by Lucy Harrison Wyche, the widow of James W. Wyche, Sr., the house burned to the ground. A new house, in the same likeness, was built on the old foundation.*

Joseph Douglas Peebles was not the first Virginian to become interested in the plantation at Anse St. Marc. In 1829, or about the time Wilkins and Peebles began to carve their plantation from private and public lands, a Dr. Joseph Dudley of Chesterfield County, Va., ventured into St. Martin Parish seeking a new life in a new land. His brief and clouded story, unfolding the tragedy that befell some of these pioneers, begins and ends with a

24. Delahoussaye's mother was a sister of Francoise Darby. His father was Louis, son of Alexander Le Pelletier Delahoussaye. The first transaction, 1818, St. Martin Conveyances, Bk. 1-B, 278, was from Jean-Louis Darby; the second, from Louis-Charles Deblano in 1819. *Ibid.*, 1-B, 502.

25. *Ibid.*, Bks. 3, 4. The sale was made on December 18, 1826. Dubuclet's wife was Marie Marthe Darby; Benoit St. Clair's wife was a sister of Balthazar Neville Declouet. The sale price was \$60,000.



few documents, the first of which discloses his purchase of that same plantation on April 8, 1829.<sup>26</sup> Sadly enough, the next year Dudley was forced to retrocede the plantation because of inability to meet his first payment.<sup>27</sup>

In the next seven years before it was sold to Joseph Peebles, the property came into the complete ownership of Neuville Declouet, apparently an ailing man, having made his will August 24, 1834,<sup>28</sup> and the declining prosperity of the mid-30s could have added to his eagerness to settle his affairs.

It is almost a certainty that Joseph Peebles never lived on his plantation on the Teche. In fact, he probably made nothing more than occasional visits there while he continued to live on and to operate his plantation in Mississippi.<sup>29</sup> Records of Hinds County show that he made no significant property sales before nor at the time of his land purchases in St. Martin Parish. This fact might be evidence enough to assume that he bought this plantation for his son, James Sterling Peebles, since he transferred that property to his son on April 8, 1841.<sup>30</sup>

Some time before June 1847, James S. Peebles formed a partnership with his cousin, Edmund Wilkins.<sup>31</sup> Then on June 8 he and Wilkins bought 320 acres of land from Phile-

26. St. Martin Parish Conveyance, Bk. 5, 23. Joseph Dubuclet and Clair Benoit de St. Clair sold to Dr. Joseph Dudley of Chesterfield County, Va., the property, bearing the usual description, with all improvements including a sawmill, a sugarmill, and a distillery, and 20 slaves for \$65,000.

27. *Ibid.*, Bk. 4, 376. A search through *Southwest Louisiana Records* revealed that Dr. Dudley had a sister and brother-in-law, probably having come to Louisiana with him and living on the plantation. Vol. II, of the above publication lists the following entries:

p. 281, Dudley, Bolton of Virginia, m. John Hall, d. August 4, 1829, at age 40 yrs. (SMCh: V. 4, No. 1976).

p. 419, Hall, Dolly of Chesterfield Co., Va., m. John Hall. In Succ. of John Hall, dated May 1829 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. No. 187).

Succession No. 187 contains only one document. This document dated May 9, 1829, contains authorization from John and Dolly Hall to William Archer of Chesterfield County, Va., to sell all their property, separate and community, and to remit the funds derived thereof.

It appears that these were the funds from which Dr. Joseph Dudley would pay at least his first installment on the plantation and that both John and Dolly or Bolton Dudley Hall died before any of their property in Virginia could be liquidated.

In the document of retrocession, Joseph Dubuclet and Clair Benoit St. Clair recognized Dudley's inability to meet payment and allowed him to remain on the property until the end of 1830. Nothing is heard of Dr. Joseph Dudley thereafter.

28. St. Martin Parish Succession No. 766.

29. The St. Martin Parish census of 1840 does not show any Peebles living in the parish.

30. St. Martin Parish Conveyance Bk. 13, 13.

This document is a notarial act which states that Joseph D. Peebles, a resident of Mississippi, appeared personally and declared he had sold to James S. Peebles of this parish a plantation consisting of 27 arpents front on the west side of Bayou Teche, bounded above by Jacques Judice and below by Bernard Dauterive, and 39 arpents front on the east side, bounded above by Jacques Judice and below by Joseph Dubuclet, with all improvements and 23 slaves, for \$22,000, which the vendor acknowledges he received from the vendee. It is clear that the elder Peebles had had some kind of operation going at the plantation during the years between his purchase and his sale to his son.

James Sterling Peebles was the only son of Joseph Peebles and Martha Barrett. He was born in North Carolina in 1814. He married Mary Frances Smith of Virginia. The St. Martin Parish census of 1850 (p. 363) shows that he was 35 and his wife 24. They had two sons: Joseph H. 10, and Thomas M. 4. Both boys were born in Louisiana. These facts indicate, then, that James S. Peebles was in Louisiana as early as 1840. He would have been about 20 years old at the time his father bought the plantation at Anse St. Marc and 25 when he bought it from his father.

31. See footnote 46, Vol. XVII, No. 3, 113.



mon Provost.<sup>32</sup> December 3 of the same year, Peebles sold Wilkins an undivided one-half of his plantation at Anse St. Marc.<sup>33</sup> If Peebles and his family were living at St. Marc at the time of this sale, they probably moved to Henry Peebles' plantation, where James Sterling was looking after the affairs as reported in Anne Cocke Peebles' letter of April 3, 1848.<sup>34</sup>

It appears that James S. Peebles and his partner, Edmund Wilkins put only part of their plantation in production of sugar. Champomier's report on the sugar crop indicates that sugarcane grew only on the right side of the Teche, the side most likely to suffer inundation. Beginning with the 1849-50 crop through the 52-53 crop—the years the partnership existed—production rose and fell with the times and seemed to be comparable to that of their neighbors on the same side of the bayou, and except for the years of inundation locally, to that of the state.<sup>35</sup>

About the time Edmund Wilkins came to Louisiana and formed his partnership with James Peebles, another group—Walker, Thorne, and Hilliard—arrived from Virginia to seek their fortunes and fulfill their futures in the Teche country. Dr. William E. Walker of Greenville County, Va., and Dr. Samuel Thorne of Halifax County, N. C., both classmates of Edmund Wilkins, bought from Benjamin Wilkins, Edmund's father, 1,100 to 1,200 acres of land in the vicinity of the junction of Bayou Teche and Bayou Fuselier.<sup>36</sup>

32. St. Martin Parish Conveyance Bk. 16, p. 276. This sale of eight arpents front of Bayou Teche was for \$2,100. For location, see Map No. 2, which accompanies this article.

This land was originally claimed by Louis Judice, Jr. The land later came into the hands of Louis' son, Jacques, who married Hyacinthe Boutte. Their daughter, Marie Amelia, married Nicholas Philemon Provost. Provost bought the property from his mother-in-law, who was then the widow of Jacques Judice.

33. *Ibid.*, Bk. 17, p. 65.

34. See footnote 11. In 1850, James S. Peebles and his family were residing in the Petit Anse area of St. Martin Parish. With them lived an overseer and his wife. Peebles valued his real estate at \$14,000. St. Martin Parish Census, 1850, p. 363. This real estate had to be his undivided one-half of the property at Anse St. Marc. The Petit Anse location would correspond to the west side of Henry W. Peebles' plantation.

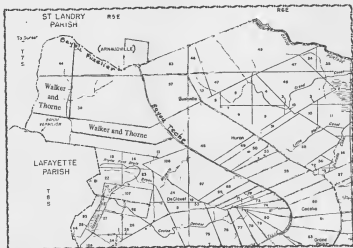
35. P. A. Champomier, *Statement of the Sugar Crop for the Years 1849-1853* (New Orleans, 1853). In the 1849-50 season, Peebles and Wilkins produced 285 hogsheads of sugar; in 50-51, they dropped sharply to 135 hhds. That year the crop was generally short because of a cold and rainy spring and a drought from July to the time of harvest. The next year decline in production was even more drastic with production down to 85 hhds. The crop everywhere was of poor quality that year. The 52-53 year saw their best crop, with a leap up to 316 hhds. During these years Peebles managed the plantation alone since Wilkins left for California in 1849 and divested himself of his interest in the plantation in 1853.

36. See Footnote 45, Vol. XVII, No. 3, 113. See also, plat of Walker and Thorne.

Walker (1924-1886) was from Greenville County, Va. He was the son of Dr. John Mumford Walker and Lucy Cargill Jones. See family chart. His aunt, Elizabeth Jones, was the wife of Joseph Wilkins and the mother of Douglas Wilkins who settled near Arnaudville.

Dr. Thorne was from Halifax County, N. C. He was the son of Dr. Samuel Thorne and Martha Williams Hill. WMO, 2nd series, VI, 86.

The St. Martin Parish Census of 1850 lists Walker, age 25, real estate value, \$12,500, Samuel Thorne, 23, and William H. Thorne, 29. William Thorne was a brother of Samuel. He was a lawyer. The Thornes left Walker in 1856, Samuel settling at Grande Point (now Cecilia) and William farther north on Bayou Portage. Samuel became very active in the vigilante activities. See Alexandre Barde, *The Vigilante Committees of the Attakapas*, trans. by Henrietta Guilbeau Rogers, ed. by David C. Edmonds and Dennis Gibson (Lafayette, La., 1981), pp. 136-137, 152. St. Martin Parish Court-house records show that his property was seized and sold for unpaid taxes during the Reconstruction years of 1869-70. St. Martin Conveyance Bk. 4, 64. William Thorne owned a sawmill on the Bayou Portage property. He sold this mill soon after the war. His property was also seized and sold for non-payment of taxes in 1896. *Ibid.*, Bk. 61, 199. Nothing concerning the Thornes is recorded after the loss of their properties.



*Location of the property Dr. William Walker and Dr. Samuel Thorne purchased from Benjamin Wilkins in 1847. After their separation Thorne moved to Section 63, in the vicinity of Grande Pointe.*

Dr. Robert Hilliard, also of Halifax County, N. D., was seeking a whole new life for himself and his family.<sup>37</sup> He married Mary Rebecca Harrison Walker, the sister of Dr. William Walker, Dec. 20, 1837. In 1847, with their five children and her brother, Mary Walker Hilliard and her husband made the overland trip to Louisiana.<sup>38</sup> They settled in St. Martinville where Dr. Hilliard practiced medicine. A few years later they moved farther down the bayou to the Fausse Point area. Sometime within the seven years after their arrival in St. Martin Parish, Dr. Hilliard's sister, Lucinda, came to live with or to visit them, and, as if to bind the families even more closely together, she married Dr. Walker in 1856.<sup>39</sup>

That same year Walker and Thorne ended their partnership after several years of increas-

37. A copy of a memorial, publication unknown, date probably some time after Dr. Hilliard's death, Sept. 10, 1867, states that Dr. Hilliard had come from a family of wealth and talent. He had studied law and received his diploma in 1830, whereupon he entered the political arena, the results of which brought financial embarrassment. Giving up his career in politics, he, influenced by his wife and her family, moved to Virginia and studied medicine. After receiving his degree, he practiced there for some years before moving to Louisiana.

38. This information was given by Mrs. Jack Chamblis of Lookout Mt., Tenn. Mrs. Chamblis is a great-granddaughter of Robert and Mary Walker Hilliard.

39. There is no civil record of this marriage in St. Martin Parish. Facts presented were gathered from the succession of Lucie Hilliard, who died in May 1863. St. Martin Parish Succession No. 1941. Since both families were staunch Methodists, it is possible that William Walker and Lucinda Hilliard were married by a Methodist minister in New Iberia. No records are available there.

The Walkers had a son, Willie, born about 1838. Lucie Walker's succession states that she died leaving a five-year-old son. The child, the idol of his father, remained at his father's side through the years, except for the yellow fever epidemic of 1867 and the years that he attended school in Virginia. More about the Walkers and the Hilliards will be given in the next segment of the article.

Willie E. Walker

Ellen Parker Pharr

Dr. William E. Walker

Lucinda Hilliard

John T. Hilliard

Lucy Hilliard

Charles McVea

Edmond Thorne Hilliard

Ira Graham

Andubon Hilliard

Ida Campbell

Henry Peebles Hilliard

1. Estelle Brensond

2. Elizabeth Bisell

May Hilliard

Charles W. Trader

Mary Rebecca H. Walker

Dr. Robert C. Hilliard

Dr. John Mumford Walker

Mary Mumford Lightfoot

Dr. John Walker

Mary Mumford

John Lightfoot

William Greene Mumford



*(Information on this chart was furnished by Mrs. Joe Chambliss,  
great-granddaughter of Mary Rebecca Harrison Walker.)*

Richard Jones

Anne Hamilton

Col. John Jones

Charles Blinn

Judith Elderidge

Elizabeth Blinn

Lacy Blinn

Capt. John Cargill II

Elizabeth Harrison

Capt. John Jones

Lacy Blinn Cargill

Capt. John Cargill III

Lacy Cargill Jones

ing production of sugar.<sup>40</sup> Their nine-year venture had apparently been successful since Thorne sold his half to Walker for \$18,000, a figure four and one-half times the amount he had put into the initial purchase.

By the summer of 1851, James Sterling Peebles and his family had moved back to the plantation at Anse St. Marc, the plantation house having been vacant since Edmund Wilkins left in 1849. The move was to make way for his uncle and his family who left the plantation in Mississippi to come to occupy his place in St. Mary Parish.<sup>41</sup> Henry Peebles, himself, was there, at least for a time, as early as May 30, 1851, when he filed suit in St. Mary Parish court to have his land legally partitioned between himself and John D. Wilkins.<sup>42</sup> In early 1853 the court appointed Benjamin Wilkins and Henry Peebles to oversee the rights of the minor heirs of John D. Wilkins.<sup>43</sup>

Besides Henry W. Peebles, age 58, and his wife, 35, the family at that time consisted of Mary, 13; Dudley, 11; Henry, 10; Jack, 7; and Ann, 3.<sup>44</sup> They lived on the plantation, maintaining a rather comfortable lifestyle, for Peebles, by the standards of the time, was a wealthy and prosperous planter. He was also a generous, big-hearted, family-loving man. His daughter, Mary, attended Patapsco, a fashionable girls' school near Baltimore, from which she graduated in mid-summer 1855.<sup>45</sup> Ann, the second daughter, also attended Patapsco.

40. Champomier shows the following record of sugar production: 1849-50, 101 hhds; 50-51, 120; 51-52, 170; 52-53, 202; 53-54, 353; 54-55, 146; and 55-56, 160.

The agricultural census of 1860 show Walker having 500 acres under cultivation and 600 acres of unimproved land. Value of his real estate was \$33,000, his implements, \$2,000. He had 6 horses, 30 mules (indicating sugar cultivation), 18 milk cows, 12 oxen, 40 hogs, and 30 sheep. Value of the livestock was \$5,000. In 1859, he produced 3,500 bu. of corn, 70 bu. of peas and beans, 60 bu. sweet potatoes, 90 hhds. of sugar, and 13,000 gals. molasses. This year probably marked the zenith of Walker's plantation years.

41. It is possible that Peebles left his place in Mississippi at the same time and for the same reason that Benjamin Wilkins came to St. Mary Parish. See footnote no. 60, Vol. XVII, No. 3, 115.

42. St. Mary Parish Original Suit No. 4368. This suit was dismissed at the plaintiff's request, July 14, 1853.

43. See footnote No. 50, Vol. XVII, No. 2, 64.

44. These ages are approximated from ages given in the 1860 census of St. Mary Parish. The last child, Sterling, was born in 1856.

45. A letter in the Wyche family collection reads, in part, as follows:

Patapsco  
June 17, 1855

My dear Mother

... As my last letter contained nothing but a little account of Father's travels it will be necessary for me to say my little on that subject at present. I was never so surprised when I heard that he had come. ... I did not intend looking for him before next week. He seemed very much fatigued but he stopped here in the village and rested several days, then we went to Balto and had a very pleasant time walking about the city. I had a very elegant present too that day, it was a watch, he gave me my choice, to have one now or when I left school. It is beautiful and I am proud of it for anything in the world. He has gone to Washington and will spend his time in visiting until Commencement then he will meet me here and carry me about and about.

I think Brother D [Dudley] has grown very little—he does not look very well. ... Much love to all and accept much for yourself

from your fond daughter  
Mary

During the late 1850s, a descendant of another early Brunswick County, Va., family and another tie in blood and in spirit appeared in the Teche country. Major John Fletcher Wyche of Huntsville, Alabama, and of New Orleans, was a commission merchant operating on the Mississippi River and along the Teche.<sup>46</sup> He was distantly related to both the Wilkins and the Peebles families. He also had a young son, fair and handsome, who on either a visit from Henry Peebles in New Orleans or on a visit to Henry Peebles in St. Martin Parish, fell into the favor of his distant cousin and whose distant cousin saw in him, according to family tradition, a suitable suitor for the hand of his older daughter. That was when Mary Robinson Peebles' knight came riding.

So Henry Peebles had made the long journey to Baltimore for his daughter's graduation, bringing his oldest son, Dudley. He was 13 years old at that time.

46. Cohen's *New Orleans Directory* for 1854 lists John Fletcher Wyche's cotton receiving house at 119 Common Street. In 1853 Benjamin Wilkins bought from Alexander Savoie 450 arpents on Bayou Fuselier for \$2,000, "one thousand of which are paid by draft drawn on John Fletcher Wyche of New Orleans by Benjamin Wilkins. . . ." *St. Landry Conveyance Bk. O*, p. 240.

(To be Continued)

# Vermilion Parish OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

District Judge . . . . Eraste Mouton  
District Attorney . . . . J. A. Chargois  
Clerk of Court . . . . . Lastie Broussard  
Representative . . . . . Adrien Nunez  
Parish Judge . . . . . William Kibbe

Parish Attorney . . . . . W. A. White  
Sheriff . . . . . G. B. Shaw  
Recorder . . . . . Leo Perret  
Tax Collector . . . . . J. B. Nunez

## Abbeville Town Council

Leonce Perret, Mayor  
Lastie Broussard J. Abadie  
S. Wise J. Boyance

George Lyons, Constable

## Vermilion Parish Police Jury

S. Wise  
F. D. Leleu  
D. O. Broussard  
N. Perret

Justices of the Peace, 3rd ward: F. B. Patton, W. A. White  
Dep'ty U. S. Surveyor, F. Faray

# Pastors of

## First Methodist Church ~ Franklin, La.



*Submitted by Mrs. Clyde Alpha*

NAMES	YEARS SERVED
Elisha W. Bowman.....	1806 - 1807
Thomas Lasley .....	1807 - 1808
Benjamin Edge .....	1809 - 1810
John Henninger.....	1810 - 1811
John S. Ford .....	1812 - 1813
Richmond Nolley .....	1814 - 1816
Peter James.....	1816 - 1817
Thomas Nixon.....	1817 - 1819
John Menefee .....	1819 - 1820
Thomas Owens .....	1819 - 1820
Daniel Devinne .....	1820 - 1822
Henry P. Cook.....	1822 - 1823
Benjamin M. Drake.....	1823 - 1824
Thomas Clinton.....	1823 - 1824
Peyton Graves.....	1824 - 1825
John R. Lambuth .....	1825 - 1826
Robert L. Walker.....	1826 - 1827
John O. T. Hawkins.....	1827 - 1828
Orasmus L. Nash.....	1828 - 1830
William H. Turnley .....	1830 - 1831
Jeptna Hughes.....	1831 - 1832
N. Drew.....	1831 - 1832
Benjamin A. Houghton .....	- 1833
W. Ford.....	1833 - 1834
J. G. Parker.....	1833 - 1834
W. Ford.....	1834 - 1835
U. Whatley .....	1835 - 1836
L. Pearce.....	1836 - 1837
John N. Hamill .....	1837 - 1838
William H. Bump.....	1838 - 1839
John Powell.....	1839 - 1840
James L. Newman.....	1840 - 1841
Philip H. Dffenwierth.....	1842 - 1843
R. W. Kennon .....	1843 - 1844
Thomas B. Craighead.....	1844 - 1845
Simeon Waters.....	1846 - 1847
Stephen J. Davies .....	1848 - 1850
Philo M. Goodwin.....	1850 - 1852
Robert H. Reed.....	1852 - 1854
N. A. Cravens .....	1854 - 1856



## NAME

## YEARS SERVED

S. J. Davies	1856	-	1858
James T. Fontaine	1857	-	1858
J. W. Johnson	1858	-	1859
Stephen J. Davies	1859	-	1860
Benjamin F. White	1860	-	1861
Alexander E. Goodwyn	1861	-	1863
Baxter Clegg	1867	-	1869
William C. Haislip	1869	-	1870
Reynolds S. Trippett	1870	-	1871
Baxter Clegg	1871	-	1872
George Bright	1872	-	1873
Americus Williams	1873	-	1874
James W. Medlock	1874	-	1876
J. F. Scurlock	1876	-	1876
Benjamin F. White	1876	-	1880
Baxter Clegg	1880	-	1881
T. K. Fauntleroy	1881	-	1885
F. S. Parker	1885	-	1886
G. A. Manderville	1886	-	1887
Alfred E. Clay	1887	-	1890
Brisco Carter	1890	-	1891
H. H. Ahrens	1891	-	1892
J. B. Cassity	1892	-	1894
H. Armstrong	1894	-	1896
W. W. Drake	1896	-	1900
Williwm Schule	1900	-	1903
J. I. Hoffpauir	1903	-	1907
Robert Vaughan	1907	-	1909
C. C. Wier	1909	-	1912
A. F. Vaughan	1912	-	1916
H. N. Harrison	1916	-	1920
John F. Foster	1920	-	1922
L. R. Sparks	1922	-	1924
John A. McCormack	1924	-	1931
C. C. Wier	1931	-	1935
W. F. Roberts	1935	-	1936
James T. Harris	1936	-	1940
Jolly B. Harper	1940	-	1943
W. D. Milton	1943	-	1947
C. K. Smith	1947	-	1948
E. P. Drake	1948	-	1951
E. R. Haug	1951	-	1956
A. S. Hurley	1956	-	1963
James E. Christie	1963	-	1966
Charles R. McCammon	1966	-	1982

# *Garrigues de Flaageac*

## *Louisiana's Forgotten Hero*

*By Ellen Roy Jolly\**

Lost to history is a Louisiana soldier, a native of France, who distinguished himself no less in civilian life than he did on the battlefield. His tomb still stands in an Opelousas cemetery.

Far from the plains of Chalmette where one day a tablet would be erected attesting to his valor in the Battle of New Orleans, Louis Joseph Paul Antoine Garrigues de Flaageac was born in 1780 in a chateau near the Lot River in France. The French Revolution put an end to his dream of attending the Vendome cavalry school, but he was allowed by his father to join Bonaparte's army under General Joachim Murat, son of a neighboring innkeeper.

Years later, one of Flaageac's proud Louisiana descendants would tell the story. Sitting on the gallery of her plantation home in the St. Landry Parish Flaageac learned to love, she said—with an air that chateau-dwellers along the Lot might envy—"Before Napoleon, the only thing a Flaageac would have said to a Murat was 'Please hold my horse.'"

But now, with the new order, Flaageac joined his former neighbor General Murat and distinguished himself in the Italian campaign at Marengo. In her book *Napoleon's Soldiers in America*, Simone de la Souchere Delery explains how Flaageac arrived in America. He joined the Saint-Domingue expedition where his courage in the field earned the rank of officer. Captured by the British, he was jailed in Cuba. When an amnesty was declared, the young Frenchman left on a ship which was subsequently wrecked. He and several others managed to escape by raft. They were picked up in the Gulf and taken to New Orleans.

Grand Louis Fontenot of Opelousas recognized in three elegant longshoremen he found working at the New Orleans riverfront men of more than ordinary calibre. Their names: Flaageac, Van Hill, Debailon. The young man explained they were helping the crew who had saved their lives. They accepted Fontenot's invitation to come to Opelousas, and within a short time Fontenot was inviting friends to the weddings of his three daughters. The names of the grooms: Flaageac, Van Hill, Debailon.

Ever adventurous and adaptable, Flaageac settled quickly into the life of the little bayou community, eventually becoming a surveyor and judge. When Louisiana became a state in 1812, the grateful townspeople elected him to the first legislature.

Flaageac scorned to use his immunity as a member of the legislature when news came that the British were approaching New Orleans. He had too many scores to settle with the British, so he donned his old uniform and headed for the city.

As the fortunes of war would have it, the British came onto the battlefield, according to Charles Gayarre, by ironic coincidence, right where their former prisoner, General Garrigues de Flaageac, held the line. Gayarre writes,

The British, giving three cheers, formed into a close column of about sixty men in

\*Ellen Roy Jolly is a native of Baton Rouge and a graduate of L. S. U. She is the co-author, with James L. Calhoun, of *The Pelican Guide to the Louisiana Capitol*, as well as a contributor to area newspapers and magazines. Ms. Jolly attributes her journalistic interests to the teachings of Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren.

front, and advanced in splendid order, but with too slow and measured steps, chiefly upon the Garrigues Flaugeac-commanded battery which consisted of a brass twelve-pounder and which was supported on its left by an insignificant battery. . . . These two batteries were the nearest to the wood, and against them the main attack was directed. Flaugeac's battery opened upon the advancing column an incessant fire, indifferently supported by the small cannonade on its left and more powerfully on its right by a long brass eighteen-pound culverine and a six-pounder. . . .

Thus, their old enemy began the rout of the British that ended in their defeat.

Alcee Fortier gives a similar account of the General's command of Battery No. 6. Flaugeac was served by "men of the company of the Frans."

"General Gibbs," Fortier continues, "led the first column, with the Forty-fourth in front, towards the woods and met with a terrible fire from the artillery of Garrigues de Flaujac [note spelling] and of Spotts and Chauveau—the musketry of the Tennessee and Kentucky troops."

The British column advanced bravely amidst a "constant rolling fire, whose tremendous noise resembled rattling peals of thunder."

The British became confused by the terrible fire which tore away whole lines of their ranks, and the tide was turned.

Later it was said at the Victory Ball the proud Frenchman refused to speak to Jean Lafitte, another hero of the day.

General Andrew Jackson in his orders commended Flaugeac:

The General takes the greatest pleasure in noticing the conduct of General Garrigues de Flaueac, commanding one of the brigades of militia of this State, and member of the Senate. His brigade not being in the field, as soon as the invasion was known he repaired to the camp, and offered himself as a volunteer for the service of a piece of artillery, which he directed with the skill which was to be expected from an experienced artillery officer. Disdaining the exemption afforded by his seat in the Senate, he continued in this subordinate but honorable station.

Thus did the rustic Tennessean dispose of other legislators who took advantage of their exemption. Jackson had his problems with the legislature, which he thought might capitulate to the British. He closed the doors of the legislature, and later the Senate would not pass a bill to present a sword of honor to Jackson. Bernard Marigny, upholding the honor of the legislature and praising the courage of Frenchmen, mentioned Flaueac, stating that out of ten or twelve cannon in Jackson's line, six had been manned by the French, including Flaueac. And the Creoles, ever suspicious of things American, spoke openly, again according to Gayarre, of his actions: "Had not Flaujeac, Beluche, Dominique and Lafitte won the battle of the 8th of January with their artillery?"

A resolution in the Louisiana legislature later devoted a paragraph to the French-born Garrigues:

General Garrigues de Flaujac, by his patriotism and the talents he displayed whilst the capitol was threatened by the enemy, has earned the honor of being ranked among those who deserved well of their country.

Garrigues de Flaueac returned to his beloved Opelousas and his family, sending his

daughter, Clara, to Grand Coteau to attend the school which was newly opened there by the Ladies of the Sacred Heart. He also sent to southern France for his nephew, a certain Dr. de Roaldes, to care for his community.

In 1845, at the age of 65, Flaueac died, and Delery writes in her moving fashion—"In spite of the stifling June heat, rich whites, poor whites, Negroes and Indians answered St. Landry's bells tolling for Garrigues de Flaueac's funeral."

Today in the St. Landry church cemetery in Opelousas, the still-impressive gravestone can be read with its quaint and touching effusions:

Volontaire de l'Armee d'Italie en 1800

Officier d'infanterie sur les champs de bataille de St. Domingue

Fils adoptif de l'Union, il se courvit de gloire dans cette immortelle campagne de 1814-

1815 qui la delivra pour toujours du joug de la fiere Albion

Legislateur vertueux et eclaire il emporte les regrets de tous les bons citoyens.

A volunteer in the Army of Italy of 1800

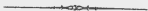
Infantry officer on the battlefields of San Domingo

Adopted son of the Union, he covered himself with glory in the immortal campaign of 1814-1815 which forever delivered it from proud Albion's supremacy.

A virtuous and enlightened legislator, he died mourned by all good citizens.

Standing there in the quiet, one can almost hear again the faraway thunder, and the long roll, and remember the last part of Jackson's orders of the day mentioning Garrigues de Flaueac:

... and by his example as well as his exertion, has rendered essential services to his country.



Death of Capt. Gates - St. Mary last week lost one of her most valuable citizens, by the death of Capt. Alfred Gates, who died at his residence in Franklin, on Saturday morning the 10th inst., aged seventy years. He had long been suffering from asthma, and for months had been unable to sleep in bed for fear of suffocation, but what rest he had he obtained while bolstered upright in a chair. However, his death was apparently painless.

Gates, who for many years has been a resident of St. Mary, was the father of Judge Fred Gates, and also of Mrs. John B. Marsh, of this place. His whole life was so pure, and his integrity as a man so untarnished that it is believed he did not have an enemy in this world.

# Indices to

## St. Landry Parish Probate Court Suits

### 1822 - 1846

*Continued from Vol. XVII, No. 3*



*Compiled by Keith P. Fontenot*

PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	DATE	SUIT NO.
Shuff, Eli	Auguste Gradenigo, Admr. et al.	Jan. 27, 1840	183
Shuff, Eli	William H. Bassett	Jan. 19, 1842	207
Simon, Andie, F. W. C.	Petition of Interdiction	Jan. 11, 1834	121
Sloame, David, et al.	Hiram Altom	June 13, 1829	61
Smith, Elizabeth, Heirs of	Mary Santee, widow of Charles Smith	Nov. 28, 1822	1
Smith, George, Est. of	Tableau	April 23, 1846	307
Smith, John D.	EState	July 8, 1831	93
Snoddy, John, Est. of	Charles Lastrapes	March 10, 1831	89
Snoddy, Washington, Heirs	Joseph D. Thompson & & Adolph Garrigues	March 12, 1833	114
Stelly, Michel. U. T.	Marcellette Stelly, et al.	Feb. 20, 1846	298
Stoutz, Valerie	Andre Nevault	June. 15, 1830	62
Taylor, Robert, Est. of	Creditors	Aug. 13, 1832	110
Tilton, Nehemiah, Est. of	Tableau of Classification	Sept. 27, 1837	156
Todd, Charlotte	Pamela Dutton, widow of David Todd	April 25, 1830	71
Todd, David L.	Heirs of John Kirkby	April 28, 1829	60
Trowbridge, Edwin L.	William Link, Admr.	March 18, 1845	273
Thibodeaux, Sylvest., Heirs	Sylvest. Thibodeau	Dec. 9, 1837	158
Thieneman, Charles	Heirs of Hiram Attom	Dec. 16, 1829	68
Thompson, Thomas H.	Heirs and widow of James Reed	March 1, 1827	40
Thompson, William, Heirs	Luke Leassier	Nov. 15, 1830	84
Vasseur, Selesie, wife of Syproyen Cormier	Jacques Bacon	Nov. 5, 1840	189
Vaughan, Harriet L.	Stephen Reed	May 21, 1846	308
Vidrine, Pierre Baptiste, U. T. et al.	John Ponsony	May 26, 1826	35
Vignie, N.	Eugene Petetin, Admr. of Louis Petetin Est.	April 6, 1842	212
Waible, Andre	Simon Gonor	Dec. 18, 1830	83
Waible, Joseph, Heirs of	Heirs of Walter McBride	Feb. 21, 1825	20
Walker, John, Est. of	Tableau	July 2, 1841	199
Wale, John M.	George B. Woodson	Dec. 28, 1842	229

PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	DATE	SUIT NO.
W. & J. Moore	Jean Miramond, Admr. et al.	Oct. 6, 1832	128
Webb, Amos. U. T.	John Dutton, Tu.	Jan. 13, 1846	293
Webb, Lewis	Estate	June 23, 1831	92
West, Martha, widow of Joel West, Admr.	Andrus West,	Aug. 26, 1841	202
West, Martha, widow of Joel, West, Tx.	John West, Admr. et al.	Aug. 26, 1841	201
White, Thomas K.	Heirs of John Keithley, Sr.	Dec. 19, 1823	9
Wikoff, Eliza	Stephen W. Wikoff, Admr. et al.	March 5, 1846	301
Wikoff, Frances E. wife of Gabriel Grevemberg	Della Webb, Admr.	May 25, 1845	276
Wikoff, Stephen W.	Benjamin Andrus, Admr.	July 2, 1841	198
Wikoff, Susan W., Heirs of	Heirs of Susan Pannel	Mar. 13, 1838	159
Wikoff, William	Estate	Jan. 28, 1846	296
Williams, Harriet P.	Robert w. Kelly, her husband	Feb. 27, 1841	195
Wills, F.	Tableau of Dist.	July 17, 1832	107
Winds, Robert D.	Dominique P. Sittig, Admr.	July 14, 1830	77
Woods, James M., et al.	Richard H. Lumpkins, Dative Exec.	May 17, 1843	236
Woods, Patrick, Jr. et al.	Patrick Woods, Jr.	Feb. 6, 1844	252
Woodson, George B., Est. of	Tableau	SEpt. 6, 1843	245
Woodson, Sarah B., Est. of	Tableau	Sept. 6, 1843	245
Yancy, Absalom, Est. of	Creditors	May 10, 1840	141
Young, James	Luke Lesassier, Admr. et al.	May 10, 1828	55
Young, Samuel, Est. of	Tableau of Dist.	Oct. 5, 1838	170
Young, Susan, Heirs of	Jacob Bihme	April 30, 1831	91

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GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK - We have received the February number of the celebrated magazine, filled with original music, choice literature, plates of the latest fashions &c. This number also contains the continuation of a new novel, *Phemie Rowland*, by Marion Harland, commenced in the January number, and will run throughout the year. This magazine is emphatically "a companion for a lady who delights in the pure and the beautiful." Subscription for a single copy, one year, \$3. Address L. A. Godey, Philadelphia, Pa.



Rev. A. J. Terry  
1883

Elder Adolphus John Terry was born in Crystal Springs, Mississippi, April 23, 1846. He was one of nine children of John "Jack" Terry and Susan Haley Terry. He was licensed to preach in the spring of 1866 and preached part-time until 1871, when he became a full-time missionary. He married his first wife, Alla Scott June 23, 1868. She died, without children, September 2, 1873. He remarried several years later to Rachel Brunson. Four sons were born into this marriage: Dana, William, Daniel, and Adolphus John. Elder Adolphus J. Terry died September 10, 1883, soon after accepting a call to pastor the first Baptist Church of Lake Charles, La. He is buried there.

*By Carol Terry Shively\**

*I arrived in Coulee Croche Prairie, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana the 16th day of December 1871, [and] in the following year the Coulee Croche Baptist Church was constituted and I was called to preach to it. The Lord blessed my labors abundantly. During the year 1873, I have preached to Coulee Croche, Pilgrims Rest, and Big Cane, and at a destitute point in Prairie Hayes where there is no church organization.*

In the years immediately after the Civil War missionaries came to Louisiana to preach the Gospel. One of these early home missionaries was Adolphus John Terry, a young man of twenty-five years, who came from Crystal Springs, Mississippi. He and his young wife, Mrs. Alla Scott Terry, came to Coulee Croche Prairie.

September 16, 1873, Brother Terry began a journal, the final narrative entry of which was written November 8, 1876. This journal has been handed down to his descendants. At the end, the journal contains several pages of notes about money received from varied fees and offerings. While the whole is interesting, the outstanding portions are his observations about the country and the people with whom he came into contact.

On September 2, 1873, his wife died while he was away "*holding a meeting of days at Pilgrims Rest.*" They had no children, so he was alone and away from his family.

\*Carol Terry Shively, the youngest daughter of George V. "Picklejack" Terry, was reared outside Evergreen on the farm her great-grandmother, Rachel Brunson Terry, bought after the death of her husband, Adolphus J. Terry. Mrs. Shively graduated from Northeast Louisiana University in 1972, having minored in history. Her husband shares her interest in that subject, Mrs. Shively says, and continuously encourages her to search out the stories of her forefathers. The Shivelys live in Shreveport.

*My sister, in behalf of my parents, made a strong appeal for me to return to my fathers roof. It is hard to resist such entreaties, for I love my parents and would like to be with them.*

For a time, he continued in his travels, but when the opportunity to settle down as pastor of one church was offered, he decided to take it.

*I have at last made up my mind as to what I shall do, or rather as to where I shall go another year. I have three fields of labor offered me. . . . I have accepted the call and shall commence my labors as soon as I can settle up my affairs here. It is the 'Bayou Des Glaizes Church' situated in the 'Big Bend of Bayou Des Glaizes' about 80 miles north of here, and 15 from the mouth of 'Red River'.*

Apparently a highly respected speaker, he took no credit for himself or his abilities. He writes of "speaking to meetings" frequently, and describes the Louisiana Baptist Association, where he was one of the speakers in October of 1873.

*[September 30, 1873] . . . The La. Bapt. Ass. [Louisiana Baptist Association] is large and one half or three fourths of it unoccupied.*

*[October 1st-6:30 A.M.] . . . I arrived here last night in company with Eld. Stagg, after traveling about thirty miles [to Bayou Chicot] . . . We are now at the house of a widow lady, and are treated very hospitably. Spring Creek, Rapides Parish 2nd 6 a.m.: . . . I arrived here yesterday evening after traveling about 25 miles, over a rough pine woods road. I am here to attend the 'La. Bapt Ass'. 9 P. M.: . . . I met with the 'La Bapt Ass' today and preached the 'Introductory Sermon' from the words, how short my time is.*

*[Flat Town, 7th 4:00 p.m.] . . . Business and want of opportunity has kept me from penning my thoughts from day to day as has been my custom. The 'Association' closed on Sabbath last. From Spring Creek Monday morning, we went to 'Pine Prairie' near 'Bayou Chicot' where Elder Stagg had an appointment to preach in french. At two o'clock we arrived at the place, and by half past four the people had all assembled and he addressed them in french from the following words of scripture, 'I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.' After he was through, there being a good many Americans present, I then addressed them in english from the same text. We spent the night with a french family; Elder Stagg again talked for about one half an hour, and with his sermon to the family; our prayers and singing, the time was very profitably spent. . . . From Pine Prairie, I came to this place, I arrived here about 2 p.m.*

Bro. Adolphus Terry also participated in the ordinations of three young Baptist ministers soon after.

*[Big Bend Bayou Des Glaizes October 25th - 10 p.m.] . . . I left Big Cane on the 22nd and came to Bayou Jack, from thence on the 23rd to this place. I am now at the house of Dr. B. W. Blake-wood. . . . I am here for two purposes, 1st to assist in the ordination of two young ministers, Bro. Richard I. Rush, and Bro. Hugh M. Brunson, which will take place tomorrow.*

*26th - 9:00 p.m. . . . The ordination of Bro. Rush and Brunson took place today. Examination conducted by Eld. Stagg and Branch. Ordination sermon by myself from Tim. 3-1 'If any man*



*desire the office of Bishop he desireth a good work.' Prayer by Elder Branch and charge delivered by Elder John O'Quinn. We had preaching this evening by Eld. O'Quinn from the words, 'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit.' Some feeling manifested on the part of some. The meeting continued through tomorrow.*

*27th - 9:00 p.m. . . . Attended church again today Eld. Rush preached from these words 'I will praise thee with my whole heart.' . . . At night I preached from these words, 'Daughters of Jerusalem weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.'*

*28th. . . . Attended church preaching in the morning by Elder Branch, subject 'Go forward' preaching at night by myself subject 'Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.'*

*29th - 9:00 p.m. . . . Meeting closed this morning; no other accession. The church appointed a committee to obtain a home for me by my return. I am now at the house of Bro. Brunson's one of the deacons of this church; will leave to-morrow for Big Cane.*

*[Prudhomme City, 2nd November, 1873] . . . We met with the Pilgrim's Rest Church at eleven o'clock this morning to an act of the church some time before, calling Bro. Henry Bennett a young licentiate to ordination, and appointing this day for the purpose, the Presbytery was organized consisting of Eld. Hugh M. Brunson and myself. The candidate was examined by Eld. Brunson, the ordination sermon preached by my-self, after which in the name of the church, we bidd him God speed in the work. Bro. Bennett is a young man of considerable promise, and of fine abilities, and I think will rise to eminence in the ministry. He is already called to supply two churches, 'Coulee Croche and Pilgrims Rest' churches which I supplied this year. He has been preaching as a licentiate about seven months.*

Terry spent much time in the company of several kinfolk of his second wife, the Brunsons. He later married Rachel Elizabeth Brunson when she was twenty-two years old. Though he never mentions her or the name of her father, Daniel Brunson during the narrative of his journal, it could be that the above-mentioned occasion was the time they met.

After taking his leave from the two churches where he had been preaching, he came to Big Bend Bayou Des Glaizes. Of the church and its facilities he writes:

*[Coulee Croche, November 9, 1873] . . . And my consecration to his [God's] cause, I feel confident has opened up unto me this field on 'Bayou Des Glazie' where, judging from the past history of the church, and the liberality they are constantly manifesting. My temporal wants will all be supplied. . . .*

*[Bayou Des Glazie, 21st November, 1873] . . . Arrived at Dr. Reynolds this evening after traveling 33 miles; stopping at Eld. Branch's. . . . 28th: . . . I am now established at my new home, 'Dr. Branch's'. There is everything to make my home a pleasant and comfortable one. The family is large it is true, consisting of a wife and seven children; but the house is large containing eight large rooms well plastered and good large fireplaces in each one. I have a very quiet room a way off to my self, which answers both for a bed room and a study, where I spend the most of my time when I am not visiting my flock. I have not yet gone around to get acquainted with all the fold: The weather has been bad and it is a little disagreeable traveling. Our church house is a very nice building, with a small gallery in front, a belfry or cupola on top. The inside has been nicely painted, but the paint is now wearing off. The Melodeon sits in about the middle of the*

house and around it gathers all the singers in the church, with the striking of the keys giving a sound to the instrument, their voices all praise in beautiful strains of melody. I have a delightful field of labor. . . .

8th [December, 1873] . . . I am now a Pastor, or Shepherd in the true sense of the term, having the oversight of only one flock, and dispensing unto them every Sabbath from the dedicated dish in the earthly sanctuary of the Lord Spiritual food from them to digest during the week to increase their spiritual strength. But the fold has been for two years or more without a shepherd. The last one they had, . . . proved to be an impostor. He left his wife and ran away to Utah with a young woman and left the church to suffer by it, and the sheep is now scattered.:

14th: . . . My congregation is gradually increasing and I hope ere long to have a full house. With regarding, preparation of sermons, preaching and visiting I am kept very busy. But it is a recreation after pouring over my books to go out and mingle [with] the fold a part of every week, and then see the expressions of appreciation for my visits more than compensates me for my trouble. It is a happy privilege to be a Pastor.

25th [January, 1874] . . . I enjoyed the Sabbath School exercises and felt more interest in the little ones welfare than I have ever felt before. Several were there without being in class. I labored to get them together and to obtain for them teachers. I put two little boys together, and asked them who they would have to teach them. They replied, 'Have a class?' Upon learning that I had not, they said 'We want you.' I could not deny the request of the little ones. So I am to become their teacher.

Bro. Terry makes mention of several weddings he performed in addition to the ordination services, but the most descriptive is his entry concerning the wedding of James W. Haygood and Miss L. C. Norwood, which took place December 17, 1873. His entry of December 18th reads:

A minister is blest in some respects; if there is a wedding on hand, he is most sure to get a special invitation. On yesterday I took a trip down to Atchafalaya River a distance of 27 miles to officiate at the nuptials of Mr. J. W. Haygood and Miss L. C. Norwood. The marriage took place at Mr. Norwood's about one half mile below 'Simmsport'. The place Mr. Norwood is living on is called 'Kirkwood'. It was about the only fashionable wedding I have attended since I have been in the state. I arrived about half past seven o'clock; the large sliding doors that separated the two parlors were pushed back into the receptacles prepared for them in the wall, and they were thrown into one; chandeliers were suspended from the ceiling in the center of each parlour, and wreaths of evergreen hung in beautiful arches over every door and window; which contrasted beautifully with the snowy white walls. At about half past eight, it was announced to me that the bride and bridegroom were coming; and from the opposite side of the parlor from where I was sitting, or rather in the second parlour, I saw them advancing towards the large doorway between the parlors, over which hung in two large arches a large wreath of evergreens, more like a huge Boa Constrictor with wide extended jaws than anything I ever saw. When I perceived them coming I arose to meet them, they halted just under the wreath of flowers, and I advanced within six paces of them, and with a trembling voice and a nervous frame, embarrassed almost beyond self-control I performed the ceremony. I was a stranger in a strange place, knowing no one scarcely and the house from being so brilliantly lighted up and the gay young people on every side arrayed in gorgeous apparel, in fact, all of the surroundings added considerably to my embarrassment. About half past nine or ten o'clock supper was announced. We passed out of the parlors, the large door

that separated the two, were pushed back and they were thrown into one room. And the place being illuminated like the former, with one glance I could see the whole scene, and a more magnificent table I never saw. Mr. Norwood is one of the wealthiest men in the Parish and he had nearly every thing his taste would call for. The Cherry wine sparkling in the glass, and the large and high stands of cakes robed in snow white and beautifully decorated with bunches of evergreens and ornamented with paper trimmings, to say nothing of the turkeys, pies, custards, fruits and the various other eatables on the table, which are so attractive to man especially when his appetite has been made keen from several hours fasting, all looked grand and magnificent. It was really a rich feast, and I partook freely of nearly everything except the wine, it being my custom never to drink wine or spiritous liquors. May the happy couple that has just vowed to live together be a mutual comfort and consolation to each other, and feel and say at all times as Ruth to Naomi, 'The Lord do so to me and more also if aught but death part thee and me.'

He notes in his receipts "December 17th from Jas. W. Haygood to Miss L. C. Norwood, am't \$10.00."

Apparently much of his embarrassment stemmed from his clothing. In 1873, there was a crop failure in the area he was preaching, and he writes:

[November 9, 1873] . . . My life this year has been ine of self denial; I have denied myself of many great comforts of life, and my clothing even now is threadbare, so as to make my expenses as small as possible, knowing that my salary would be cut short by the failure of the crops.

[September 23, 1873] . . . Our land is in a great plague. The Lord giveth the increase of our labors to the caterpillar and our labor goes to pay taxes, high tariffs, and the big profits of merchants and there is none of our labor for our own enjoyment.

As the new year of 1874 dawns, however, weather becomes more and more a subject of his observations.

[6th of January, 1874] . . . Yesterday it was misting all day, and now while I am writing I see from my window falling flecks of snow. This is the first snow I have ahd this winter, but it melts about as fast as it falls. The winter has been unusually mild and dry.

15th . . . Today it is cold and disagreeable. The wind is from the north and fine drops of sleet [sic] are falling. At four o'clock I solemnized the rite of matrimony between Mr C. H. George and Miss Sally E. Griffin.

16th. . . The ground is covered in snow about four inches deep and it is still snowing.

He sees a bright picture of the local economy in February, as shown by his February 13th entry.

Farming has commenced, spring is approaching, and everything begins to bud bright and cheerful. We have lived through a very adverse year, but perhaps this will be one of prosperity. Lou-

isiana has suffered intensely, and many, yes very many I know not how they will come through the year; the Lord only knows. Bayou Des Glaize is the only favored spot that I know off [sic], or at least visited. Its general appearance denotes prosperity. Settlements are increasing and numerous nice little cottages are being built, and it is constantly improving. A few years of prosperity will give to us a dense population. Before the war Bayou Des Glaize lands were in great repute; their market value was one (\$100.00) hundred dollars per acre, and their average yield was about two bales per acre, and forty barrels of corn. The lands seem to have deteriorated, I think because they are not now properly ditched and cultivated. There are several large tracts of land, 'fine locations' enough to settle comfortably a dozen or more families and a good fence, or tolerably good, that can be bought for fifteen (\$15.00) dollars per acre. Cotton and sugar and mollasses being the principal products of commerce, we have a fine facility for sending them to market. This stream is navigable, especially in winter and spring, and will land at house and take or put off freight. We have now, two little Steamers in the Bayou which will make two regular trips every work week. Upon the whole I like Bayou Des Glaize better than any country I have ever seen, and by the induction of good, pious and enterprising farmers and laborers, to improve society and cultivate our rich alluvial soil, it will be a country that your eyes have long desired to behold.

However, 1874 did prove to be an "adverse year," as there was an "overflow" in the spring. Of it Terry writes:

[March 30th, 1874] . . . It is rain, rain, every week and the news is that the rivers are still rising; the water is nearly up to the base of the levee; the water is backing up in the swamp towards the Bayou and the general uneasiness is that we will be overflowed.

April 4th: . . . Came to 'Atchafalaya' this evening, a distance of 32 miles.

5th: . . . Preached this morning in Eld. Lansdell's pulpit, at Chaffin's schoolhouse, and at night at Simmsport. . . . Atchafalaya is very high. Apprehension of an overflow.

6th: . . . Arrived home this evening. The water is still coming upon us. The north side of the Bayou is two thirds under and if the water continues to rise as it has been, another week will put us all under.

26th: . . . The country is suffering from inundation and is involved in ruin in consequence of it. The water is eighteen inches deep in the yard, the only conveyance we have is skiffs and flat boats. The water is pouring through the levees in mighty torrents, with a mighty roaring noise, sweeping away the fences and in some places the houses near them. The water in places are running through the houses, forcing the occupants out to seek dry land. Many of the people are in a suffering condition; no money; no provisions, and no credit. Through the charitableness of the citizens of New Orleans, Boston and elsewhere, provisions have been sent to the sufferers; A small cargo arrived yesterday. The house and senate of the United States has passed a relief bill to expire the first of September, the country I fear is hopelessly ruined. The holding of the Miss [Mississippi] levees, seem almost an impossibility. The lands will depreciate in value and perhaps be deserted. The people are dissatisfied and demoralized and want to get away to high land. While I believe it is almost an impossibility to keep up the levees on the Miss [Mississippi] will send against it and when once built it will be there for ages, for it's banks does not cave and its soil is stiff clay, [no sand] with which they build should be built by all means. The planters hav endeavored to build

their own levees but their limited means prevented them making it secure and beside it is not right for them to bear all the expense in building them, when a large part of the country is not unaffected by these overflows. I hope that something will be done to save the Country from ruin for in richness and productiveness of soil a finer country cannot be found in the earth. Not excepting even the lands lying directly on the great 'Father of Waters'.

Then, again, as the water begins to fall:

[May 11th, 1874] . . . The water falls very slow. The lands have been inundated now for 26 days and in all probability will remain up three weeks longer. The water is from one to eight feet deep in the fields. The people attend church in little flat boats and skiffs. Yesterday we had a very good congregation. It is a sight I never saw before, a dozen or more boats tied up [to] a church. It is a privilege the people seem to enjoy.

[June 7th] . . . The water is now receding. The front lands are no longer submerged. The people are following behind the water as it goes off planting their cotton seed in the mud. A great deal of it is up and being scraped out. It looks healthy and vigorous. The corn I don't suppose they will plant until July. The prospects of the country are anything but encouraging. The failures of crops last year, and the failure of merchants in N. O. has reduced our people to want. Most of them being unable in consequence of the overflow, to obtain supplies from their merchants. The good people of N. O. and other places have been sending provisions to the Bayou, these provisions have been receiving ever since the overflow. But I think the relief committee has about expended their means. It is humiliating to the people doubtless to think that they are dependant upon the charities of the world. May the Lord sustain us in these troublous times.

15th: . . . The visitations of God's providence here in this community have been such as to spread gloom and sorrow all around. As the water subsided the atmosphere became impregnated with the Malaison [sic] that arises from decaying matter, and the drying of the rich alluvial that the water has deposited on the land, and the sickness and death are now ensuing. Four evenings ago I funeralized two at our church at the same hour, one a member of the church, the other a little infant, two evenings ago I was called upon to bury another, a young man, May the Lord stay the pestilence, nevertheless his will be done, not mine. \*

\*Author's note: With these grim words, Bro. Terry ends the narrative portion of his journal. I feel it can be safely said, however, that better days were, indeed, ahead for him, for he did re-marry and fathered four sons before his death in 1883. At that time he was pastor of First Baptist Church of Lake Charles, La. His widow, Rachel Elizabeth Brunson Terry returned to Avoyelles parish, and it was there that his sons were reared.

# Revised Index to St. Mary Parish Estates 1811 - 1900

*Continued from Vol. XVII, No. 3*

Compiled by  
*Mrs. Clyde Alpha, Mrs. Margery Laws Luke,  
Mrs. Dorrie R. Richard, and Mary Elizabeth Sanders*

Edited and submitted by  
*Mary Elizabeth Sanders*

ESTATE NO.	NAME	YEAR OPENED
2072	Henry Bradley	1866
2149	Bettie Braddley	1868
2741,	William Branche/Brauche & Tina Edwards, his wife,	1894
2748	both deceased	1894
2923	Daniel Brady	1899
2965	Mrs. William Branche/Brauche, nee Tina Edwards	1900
42	Dr. William L. Brent (Missing)	1815
399	Hypolite Breaux & Julie Babineaux, his widow, both deceased	1894
723	Jacob Brevu	1850
872	Edward C. Brent	1854
1035	Euphrasie Adelina Bre, wife of Valsin Aucoin	1859
2393	Pierre Brez & Marie LeBlanc, his wife, both deceased	1839
2770	Auguste Brenez	1895
811	Christopher Brien	1853
840	Nancy Brien, widow of Joseph Berwick, widow in first marriage of (?) Ashlock	1854
904	Mrs. George Brien, nee Eliza Choute	1855
924	Serena Brien/O'Brien, widow of George Johnson	1856
1093	Gabriel A. Briant	1862
2108	Ann S. Brien—Only a Promissory note.	1867
203	Edward A. Broussard	1831
276	Nicolas Broussard	1834
304	Eloi A. Broussard	1835
364	Mrs. Nicolas Broussard, nee Mary Elizabeth Bertrand	1837
497	Raphael Broussard	1843
535	Mary U. Broussard, wife of Henry M. Topham	1844
562	Mrs. Marcelin Broussard, nee Josephine LeBlanc	1845
619	Azelle Broussard, wife of Marcellin Sonnier	1846
646	Mrs. Raphael Broussard, nee Modeste LeBlanc	1848
777	Carmelite Broussard, wife of William W. Waggoner	1852
802	John Brown, "a sailor," vacant.	1853
839	Adelaide Broussard, wife of Jean Pierre Landry	1854
884	Marguerite Broussard, wife of Francisco Domingues	1855

ESTATE NO.	NAME	YEAR OPENED
957	Mrs. Aaron H. Brown, nee Marie Elena Prevost	1857
996	Mathew Wilson Brown	1858
2064	John Brown	1866
2115	Leon Broussard	1867
2119	Mrs. Jean-Baptiste Broussard, nee Carmelita A. Daigle	1867
2286	Tracy J. Bronson	1874
2360	James G. Brookshire/Brookshier	1879
2469	Mrs. Alice Bronson	1880
1552	Preston Brown	1886
2605	The Mrs. Aristide Broussards, nee Eugenie & Ada Dumesnil, sisters	1889
2721	Marshall Brown (spelled also Martial Brown)	1893
2727	Benoit O. Broussard (multiple listing)	1894
2831	Ruffin Brown & Mary Brown, his wife, both deceased. Note in index: See also Estate No. 3363.	1897
2879	Annais Broussard, wife of Desire Germand	1898
2903	Mrs. Orleans Whitehall Brown, nee Sidney A. Harding	1899
120	Louis Luli del Brunet	1822
2235	Frederick Bruce	1871
2793	ARMstead Bruce	1895
2961	Henry Fritz Brupbacher	1900
16	M. Buford (missing)	1812
22	Probably the succession of Mary Buford, wife of Warren Buford of Concordia Parish, La. See SM 1 8B, 10.	1813
47	A. Buele/ Bulle (Missing) (Multiple listing)	1816
246	Benjamin Buchanan	1833
448	James Bue	1841
899	Samuel Buniff	1855
2392	Mrs. Benjamin Buniff, nee Semmpha (?) Johnson	1879
2732	Samuel Buniff & Eliza H. Campbell, his wife, both deceased	1894
2918	Mrs. Thomas A. Buford, nee Clara Gary	1899
331	Maria Wilkins Burnley, daughter of Hardin Burnley & Mary Ann Wilkins, daughter of this decedent; tutorship concerning the succession of Maria Wilkins, 1st wife of John Douglass Wilkins	1836
701	Mrs. John Burris, nee Rebecca Phillips	1850
2047	John Burriss	1865
2356	Ernest A. (or D.) Burguieres	1879
2384	Arpha M. Burt, widow of Simeon Smith. See Estate No. 825 for her maiden name.	1879
2477	Peter Burke	1883
2492	Cecile Burguieres, wife of Lufroy P. Patout	1884
2576	Daniel H. Burtch	1887
2596	Mrs. Daniel Burtch, nee Laura S. Gordy, widow in first marriage of Malcolm Cook	1888
2648	Mrs. Jules M. Burguieres, nee Marie Corinne Patout	1891
2704	Sarah Burns, widow of David Robbins	1893
2802	Horace S. Burtch	1896
2417	Ima Butaud, wife of John T. Dumesnil	1880

ESTATE NO.	NAME	YEAR OPENED
2453	Mrs. Alexis Buteau, nee Irma Lange	1882
2841	Delphine Butler, wife of Sevan Soott	1897
2939	Samuel Bush & Betsy Nash, his wife, both deceased	1899
2042	Ranson H. Byrne. Note: In both the index and the succession papers is a notice of referral to Estate No. 2087. Nothing else is in this file. No. 2087 (immediately below) is the succession of Mary Ann Cook (sometimes written Cock), widow of Ranson L. Byrne.	1865
2087	Mrs. Ranson L. Byrne, nee Mary Ann Cook/Cock	1866
2531	Andrew Byrne	1885
180	Jefferson Caffery	1829
255	Mrs. Jefferson Caffery, nee Marie Alix Demaret	1833
313	Donelson Caffery	1835
365	Jean-Francois Hilaire Caillet	1837
593	Benjamin Cade	1846
1085	Ralph E. Caffery (Multiple listing)	1861
2078	Henry Callingson/Collingson	1866
2385	Frances A. Cailler, wife of Dr. John Tarlton	1879
2526	Gustave A. Callery, Jr.	1886
2896	John Callia	1899
90	F. Campbell (Missing) Undoubtedly the succession of Farquard Campbell, a St. Mary taxpayer in 1813. See SM 134.	1820
251	Martin M. Campbell	1833
473	Martha Campbell, wife of Samuel R[ussell] Rice. This succession is bound behind succession No. 472 with no divider guide between the two estates. Inventory only. See SM 11 45.	1842
565	Mrs. James Campbell, nee Theodoca H. Lacy	1845
630	Samuel Campbell	1848
647	Mrs. Martin M. Campbell, nee Drusilla S. Highfield, widow in first marriage of Montford Perryman.	1848
648	William Campbell	1848
2058	Malcolm L. Cameron	1866
2124	James Campbell	1867
2732	Eliza H. Campbell & Samuel Buniff, her husband, both deceased.	1894
2888	Louisa A. Campbell, widow of Benjamin F. Harris	1898
1023	Magdeline Cantrell, widow of Patrice Uriell of St. James Parish.	1859
1060	Vincent Capola	1860
2162	Joseph W. Capron	1869
2870	Cornelius Cauty	1898
1	Joseph Carlin (Missing) Joseph Carlin, an early Attakapas settler, was buried December 30/31, 1809, on the plantation of Honore Carlin [his son], according to the Death Register of St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church, St. Martinville, La. See SM 1 1.	1810
32	H. Carlin (Missing)	1814
43	F. Carlin (Missing) Possibly the succession of the widow of Joseph Carlin, nee Francoise Lange. She died in September, being buried September 13, 1815, according to the Death Register of St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church. See SM 1 1.	1815

(To Be Continued)



# Records of Belle Isle-en-Mer

*Submitted by Evelyn Petrey Goller*

*Translated by Mathé Allain*

*Continued from Vol. XVII, No. 3*

*Family of Charles Hebert of Kervijon (?),  
Parish of Bangor*

Today February 20, 1757, appeared Charles Hebert of Kervijon (?), accompanied by Charles Granger, Joseph Billerey, Jean Theriot, and Pierre-Simon Trahan, Acadians living on this island, who declared he was born at Pisquit, Parish of the Assumption, in February 1731, son of Charles Hebert and Marie Daigre of the said parish. Charles Hebert was the son of Jean Hebert and Magdeleine Dugast; Jean Hebert of Manuel Hebert and Andree Le Brun; Manuel Hebert, son of Etienne Hebert, who came from France with his wife Marie Gaudet to settle at Port-Royal, where they both died. Marie Daigre was the daughter of Bernard Daigre and Claire Bourg; Bernard Daigre was the son of Jean Daigre who came from France and married Marie Gaudet of Port-Royal, where they both died.

The said Charles Hebert was married at Memramcook, in the Beaubassin Bay, in November 1751, to Marie Poirier, daughter of Joseph Poirier and Jean Harsenau (*sic*) of Baie-Verte at Beaubassin. Marie Poirier died with all their children on the coast of Portugal, where the vessel bringing them to Europe was shipwrecked in December, 1758.

Charles Hebert remarried in the Parish of St. Servant, bishopric of Saint-Malo, in April 1763, Jeanne Lucas, daughter of Joseph Lucas and Jeanne Monnitain (Monnisain?). Jeanne Lucas died in the Parish of Saint-Servant in 1764, leaving a child, Marie-Theotiste Hebert, born at Saint-Servant in October 1764.

Charles Hebert married a third time in the parish of Saint-Servant in July 1765, Marie Lecoq, daughter of Jacques Lecoq and Magdelaine Laurent, both of Saint-Servant. Such is the statement of Charles Hebert, which was read to him, and he declared it to be true and that he could not sign. Done over the signature of the abovesaid witnesses, and Pierre-Jacques-Philippe Le Sergent, of Bangor, Jean-Louis Le Loutre, missionary, and ours, clerk appointed for that purpose the said day and month.

Pierre-Simon Trahan  
Charles Granger

Jean Theriot  
Joseph Billerey  
Thibaut, clerk

J. L. Le Loutre, missionary

P. J. Ph. Le Sergent, rector of Bangor

*Family of Claude-Joseph Billeray (sic)  
of Kerarigeon, Parish of Bangor*

On February 20, 1767, appeared Claude-Joseph Billeray, sharecropper of Kerarigeon, Parish of Bangor, on this island, who in presence of Charles Granger, Jean Theriot, Simon-Pierre Trahan, and Jean Granger, witnesses, all Acadians living on this island, declared he was born at Vermis-(?)-Fontaine, diocese of Besancon, in Franche-Comte, on November 12, 1727, son of Jean-Claude Billeray and Monique Golard, of the said place. He married on June 26, 1750 at Port-La Joye on Isle St. Jean, Brigitte de Forest, born at Pisquit, Parish of the Holy Family, on April 29, 1729, to Michel de Forest and Marie Bellemere. Michel de Forest was the son of Michel de Forest and Marie Hebert of the same parish where they both died. Marie Bellemere was the daughter of Jacques Bellemere who came from France with his wife Perrine Bazille, both of whom died at Port-Royal.

From the marriage of Claude-Joseph Billeray and his wife were born:

Marie-Jeanne Billeray, on July 29, 175[9], in the Parish of (?), bishopric of Saint-Malo.

Joseph-Jean Billeray, at the said place, on November 3, 1761.

Such is the declaration of Claude-Joseph Billeray which was read to him, and he declared it true. He signed with the aforesaid witnesses along with Pierre-Jacques-Philippe Le Sergent, rector of Bangor, Jean-Louis Le Loutre, missionary, and us, clerk appointed for that purpose.

Pierre-Simon Trahan  
Jean Granger  
Charles Granger  
J.-L. Le Loutre, missionary

Jean Theriot  
Joseph Billerey  
Thibaut, clerk  
P. J. Ph. Le Sergent, Rec. of Bangor

*Family of Pierre Deline,  
Village of Kerarigeon,  
Parish of Bangor*

On February 21, 1767, appeared Pierre Deline, of the village of Kerarigeon, Parish of Bangor, Joseph Billeray, Jean Terriot, and Simon-Pierre Trahan, all Acadians living on this island, declared that he was born on November 4, 1729, in the parish of Saint Clevills (?), grand vicarate of Pontoise, in the Vexin election of Maguy. He was the son of Jean Deline and Michele Petit; he married at Saint Servant at Saint Malo, on January 17, 1764, Rosalie Bonniere, born at Pisiquid, on May 29, 1739, daughter of Pierre Bonniere and Magdelaine-Josephe de Forest. The said Bonniere came from Brittany and died at Plymouth, England. Magdelaine-Josephe de Forest was the sister of Brigitte de Forest and had the same lineage. He declared he had on November 12, 1762, a daughter from Rosalie Bonniere before his marriage, named Marguerite ADelaide, whom he acknowledged and legitimized after his marriage with Rosalie Bonniere, on January 17, 1764, as stated on the register of the parish of Saint-Servant. Since his marriage he had two other children, namely Marie-Magdelaine Deline, born at Saint-Servant on July 3, 1765, and Pierre-Benoist, born at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, Parish of Bangor, on December 2, 1766.

The said Rosalie Bonniere was married a first time at Saint-Pierre, on Isle-Saint-Jean. In September, 1758, to Jean Rivet, born at Pisiquid, Parish of the Holy Family, in 1727 to Etienne Rivet and Anne Le Prince. Jean Rivet died on a privateer from Saint-Malo in 1760. From the marriage of Rosalie Bonniere and Jean Rivet was born a daughter at Saint-Servant Parish in Saint-Malo on May 27, 1760, named Rose-Pelagie-(?) Rivet. Such is the declaration of Pierre Deline which he declared true aftering it. He declared he could not sign. Done over the signatures of the aforesaid witnesses, that of the rector of Bangor, and of J.-L. Le Loutre, missionary and ours, clerk appointed for that purpose; the said month and day.

Pierre-Simon Trahan  
Charles Granger  
Joseph Billerey  
J. L. Le Loutre, missionary

Jean Terriot  
Thibaut, clerk  
P. J. Ph. Le Sergent, Rector of Bangor

*Family of Guillaume Montet,  
Village of Kerarjou,  
Parish of Bangor*

On February 21, 1767, appeared Guillaume Montet, sharecropper of Kerarjou, Parish of Bangor, who in the presence of Charles Granger, Joseph Billerey, Jean Theriot, and Simon-Pierre Trahan, Acadians living on this island, declared that he was born in the Parish of Bajolis (?) in Perigord, on January 23, 1727, the

sons of Francois Montet and Marie Marlin. He was married at Liverpool by Father Brazille on April 19, 1763, to Marie-Josephe Vincent, born at Riviere-aux-Canards, parish of St. Joseph, on April 22, 1746, daughter of Joseph Vincent, son of Michel Vincent and of Anne-Marie Douaron, of the same parish, (The said Joseph Vincent having died at Liverpool in September 1756.) and of Marguerite Baudart, daughter of Pierre Baudart who came from France and died in Maryland.

From the marriage of Joseph Vincent and Marguerite Baudart was born in the parish of St. Joseph on October 15, 1748, Pierre Vincent.

From the marriage of Guillaume Montet, with Marie-Josephe Vincent were born:

Pierre Montet, at Morlaix, parish of St. Martin, bishopric of St. Pol de Leon, on January 2[2], 1764.

Marie-Francoise Montet, born at Palais, on Belle-Isle, Parish of Saint-Gerard, on November 12, 1765.

Such is the statement of Guillaume Montet which he declared true when it was read to him. He declared he could not sign. Done over the signatures of the aforesaid whittnesses, of the rector of Bangor, of Father J. L. Le Loutre, and ours, clerk appointed for that purpose, on the said day and month. The word "Michel" was inserted and "Joseph" scratched.

Pierre-Simon Trahan

Jean Terriot

J. L. Le Loutre, missionary

Charles Granger

Joseph Billerey

Thibaut, clerk

P. J. Ph. Le Sergeant, rector of Bangor

*Family of Jean and Pierre Granger,*

*Village of Bortemont,*

*Parish of Bangor*

On February 22, 1767, appeared Jean and Pierre Granger, sharecroppers of this island, who in the presence of Charles Granger, Joseph Billerey, Jean Theriot, and Simon Granger, Acadians living on this island, witnesses, declared, namely Jean Granger, that he was born at Riviere-aux-Canards, Parish of St. Joseph, on March 19, 1740, son of Francois Granger and Anne Landry. The said Francois Granger was the son of Rene Granger and Marguerite Theriot; Rene Granger of Laurent Granger, born at Falmouth in England, who, after abjuration, married at Port-Royal Marie Landry of Port-Royal, where they both died. Francois Granger died at Falmouth. On November 1, 1756, Anne Landry was the daughter of Francois Landry and Marie Doucet of the Parish of St. Joseph. Francois Landry was the son of Antoine Landry and Marie Thibaudault, of the same parish. Anne Landry died at Falmouth on July 15, 1756.

Jean Granger was married at Falmouth on October 19, 1761, to Marie-Blanche Theriault, born in the Parish of St. Joseph, on June 12, 1744, to Jean Theriot and Marie Daigre of the said parish.

Marie-Blanche Theriault was the sister of the wives of Simon, Jean, Baptiste, and Armand Granger, of the parish of Palais, where their genealogy was recorded.

From the marriage of Jean Granger and Marie-Blanche Theriault were born:

Simon-Francois Granger, at Falmouth, on December 18, 1762.

Marie-Anne Granger, at Morlaix, Parish of St. Martin, bishopric of St. Pol de Leon, on December 12, 1764.

Pierre Granger declared that he was born at Riviere-aux-Canards, parish of St. Joseph, on November 9, 1743, brother of Jean Granger with the same ancestors. He was married at Morlaix, Parish of St. Martin, on May 29, 1765, to Marie Thibaudault, born in the Parish of St. Joseph on November 6, 1743, to Germain Thibaudault and Judith Le Blanc. Germain Thibaudault died at Falmouth in England in 1756, and was the brother of Jean Thibaudault, with the same ancestors. Judith Le Blanc was born in the Parish of St. Charles the sister of Charles and Simon Le Blanc with the same ancestors. She died at Falmouth in October 1756.

From the marriage of Pierre Granger and Marie Thibaudault was born at Palais, Parish of St-Gerard, on

January 14, 1766, Jean-Marie Granger.

The said Jean and Pierre Granger declared that they have the following brothers and sisters:

Francois-Xavier, born at Riviere-aux-Canards, Parish of St. Joseph, on November 27, 1746, right now, a sailor.

Francois-Rene, born at the same place on January 30, 1748, presently at Morlaix.

Elizabeth, born at the same place, on March 8, 1750, presently at Morlaix.

Marie-Francoise, born at the same place on November 18, 1751, presently at Ker(-?), parish of Bangor.

Marie-Magdelaine, born in the parish of St. Joseph, on April 6, 1753, presently at Cortement, Paris of Bangor.

Such is the declaration of Jean and Pierre Granger, brothers, which they declared true when it was read to them. Done over the signature of the aforesaid witnesses, of the rector of Bangor, of Father J. L. Le Loutre, and ours, clerk appointed for that purpose.

Charles Granger

Joseph Billerey

J.-L. Le Loutre, missionary

Jean Terriot

Jean Granger

Pierre-Simon Trahan

Simon Granger

Thibaut, clerk

P. J. Ph. Le Sergeant, R. of Bangor

*Family of Jean Theriot of Bortemont,  
Parish of Bangor*

On February 22, 1767, appeared Jean Theriot of Bortemont, Parish of Bangor, who in the presence of Charles Granger, Joseph Billerey, Simon Trahan and Simon Granger, Acadians living on this island, declared that he was born at Riviere-aux-Canards, Parish of St. Joseph, son of Jean Theriot, of the said parish, and Marie Landry, born at Pisiquid, Parish of the Holy Family, on June 17, 1714.

Jean Theriot was the son of Claude Theriot, and Agnes Aucoin; Claude Theriot, son of another Claude Theriot and Marie Gautrot of Port Royal, where they both died. Agnes Aucoin was the daughter of Martin Aucoin and Marie Gaudet. Agnes Aucoin died at Falmouth in October, 1756, and Jean Theriot, the deponent's father, same place and year. Marie Landry, the deponent's mother, was the daughter of Pierre Landry and Marguerite Foret; Pierre Landry, son of Antoine Landry and Marie Th(-?); Marguerite Foret, daughter of Pierre Foret and Cecile Richard, Parish of the Holy Family.

From the marriage of Pierre Landry and Marguerite Foret were born in the Parish of the Holy Family:

Marie Landry, the deponent's mother.

Anne Landry, same place in October 1715, married there in 1733 to Joseph Babin, son of Vincent Babin and Anne Theriot; the said Joseph Babin deported with his wife to Virginia, where she died.

Augustin Landry, born March 1719 and married in 1742 to Anne Rivet, daughter of Etienne Rivet and Anne Le Prince. Anne Rivet died in the said parish in 1745.

From the marriage of Augustin Landry and Anne Rivet was born Joseph Landry at Pisiquid in 1743.

The said Augustin Landry was married again in 1747, to Marie Babin, daughter of Jean Babin and Marguerite Bourg, deported to Maryland with his wife and the children from both marriages.

Marguerite Landry, born at Pisiquid, in October 1723 and married there Bruneau Trahan, born in August 1719, son of Pierre Trahan and Magdelaine Comeau, deported to Philadelphia.

Bazille and Brigitte, twins, born at the said place on May 14, 1727. Bazille married Brigitte Boudrot, daughter of Pierre Boudrot and Magdelaine Hebert of the same parish, deported to Maryland. Brigitte Landry was married in the Parish of the Holy Family to Charles Trahan, born at the said place, in October 1729, deported to Maryland.

Joseph Landry, born at Pisiquid, on August 14, 1730; married to Magdelaine Boudrot, daughter of Pierre Boudrot and Magdelaine Hebert of the Parish of the Holy Family and deported to Maryland.

From the marriage of Jean Theriot and Marie Landry, parents of the deponent, were born at Riviere-aux-Canards, Parish of St. Joseph:

Marie Theriot, on September 20, 1737; married at Falmouth in England by Fr. Edouard Coats in May 1762, to Laurent Granger, who lives on this island at Lanno, Parish of Sauzon.

Marie-Magdelaine Theriot, on November 12, 1738; married at Falmouth after Easter of 1758, to Simon Daigre of Kervellant, Parish of Sauzon.

Marie-Josephe Theriot, on April 10, 1743; married at Falmouth on February 2, 1760, to Jean-Charles Daigre, of Kerzo, Parish of Sauzon.

Anne-Gertrude Theriot, on October 14, 1745; married at Morlaix, Parish of Saint-Martin, bishopric of St. Pol de Leon, to Felix Boudrot, of Kerzo, Parish of Sauzon.

Elizabeth Theriot, on September 25, 1748, living with her mother at Cortement.

Claude Theriot, on April 12, 1750, living with his mother at Cortement.

Francoise-Euphemie Theriot, on August 30, 1753, living with her mother at Cortement.

Jean Theriot, deponent, born on February 13, 1741; married at Falmouth by Fr. Edouard Coats to Marguerite Granger, sister of Jean and Pierre Granger of Cortement, with the same lineage.

From their marriage were born:

Jean-Baptiste Theriot, at Morlaix, Parish of Saint Matthew, bishopric of Treguier, on August 7, 1763.

Marie-Catherine Theriot, in the Parish of Bangor, on May 6, 1766.

Such is the declaration of Jean Theriot, which he declared true when it was read to him.

Done over the signatures of the aforesaid witnesses, of the rector of Bangor, of Fr. J.-L. Le Loutre, and ours, clerk appointed for that purpose. The word "read" was inserted.

Pierre-Simon Trahan

Joseph Billerey

Jean Terriot

J.-L. Le Loutre, missionary

Charles Granger

Jos. Simon Granger

Thibaut, clerk

P. J. Ph. Le Sergent, rector of Bangor

*Family of Marie-Rose Rivet,  
Widow of Rene Landry, of Bordrehouan,  
Parish of Bangor*

On February 22, 1767, appeared Marie-Rose Rivet, widow of Rene Landry, sharecropper of Bordrehouan, who in the presence of Charles Granger, Joseph Billerey, Jean Theriot, and Simon Granger, witnesses, all Acadians living on this island, declared he was born at Pisiquid, Parish of the Holy Family, on July 18, 1707, to Etienne Rivet and Anne Le Prince, of the same parish. Etienne Rivet was the son of another Etienne and Anne Co-

meau, both of whom died at the said place. Anne Le Prince, was the daughter of Jean Le Prince who came from France and married Marguerite Hebert, both of them dying at Pisiquid. Anne Le Prince died in Maryland.

From the marriage of Etienne Rivet and Anne Le Prince were born at Pisiquid:

Michel Rivet, in 1709; married a first time at Pisiquid to Anne Landry, daughter of Abraham Landry and Marie Guillaume. The said Anne Landry died at the said place in May 1740. From that marriage were born at Pisiquid, Anne Rivet, Maximilien Rivet, Joseph-Marie Rivet, and Blaise Rivet.

Michel Rivet was married a second time at Pisiquid in 1741 to Catherine Benoist, daughter of Simon Benoist and Anne Babin, deported to Maryland with all their family. There Michel Rivet and Catherine Benoist died.

Etienne Rivet, born in 1717, married at Pisiquid in 1743 to Claire Forest, daughter of Pierre Forest and Magdelaine Babin, deported to Maryland with their family.

Anne Rivet, born in 1719. Married to Augustin Landry, son of Pierre Landry and Marguerite Forest. Anne Landry died at Pisiquid in 1750. From that marriage were born Joseph Landry and Marie Landry. The said Augustin Landry married a second time at Pisiquid Marie Babin and was deported to Maryland with all his children.

Marie Rivet, born in 1723; married at Pisiquid to Bonaventure Forest, the son of Pierre Forest and Magdelaine Babin, deported to Maryland with their family.

The said Marie-Rose Rivet, deponent, married at Pisiquid, Parish of the Holy Family, on May 31, 1727, to Rene Landry, born at Riviere-aux-Canards, Parish of St. Joseph, in 1703, son of Rene Landry and Anne Theriot. Rene Landry was the son of another Rene Landry and Michelle Gaudet, both of whom died at the said place. Rene Landry, husband of the deponent, died in the said parish on September 21, 1749.

From the marriage of Rose Rivet and the late Rene Landry were born at Riviere-aux-Canards:

Jean Landry, May 21, 174[6].

Marie-Joseph Landry, on November 22, 1749. Jean and Marie-Josephe live with their mother at Bordrehouan, Parish of Bangor.

Francoise Landry, on January 22, 1733, and married at Riviere-aux-Canards to Joseph Babin, son of Charles Babin and Anne Melancon, of Mines, Parish of St. Charles, deported to Maryland.

Marguerite Landry, on January 18, 1735, married at Liverpool in England by Fr. Walbleur on January 15, 1758 to Cyprien Duon, who lives at Balastrene, Parish of Bangor.

Anne Landry, on February 24, 1739, married at Liverpool by Fr. Wildon, on May 15, 1758, to Charles Le Blanc of Bordrehouan; born at Pisiquid, Parish of the Holy Family, on August 22, 1734, to Honore Le Blanc and the late Marie Trahant. Honore Le Blanc lives at Bordustan, Parish of Palais, where the genealogy was recorded.

From the marriage of Anne Landry and Charles Le Blanc were born:

Marie Le Blanc, at Liverpool, on August 20, 176.

Claude Le Blanc, at Morlaix, Parish of Saint Martin, bishopric of Trequier on May 23, 1765.

Magdelaine Landry, at Riviere-aux-Canards, Parish of St. Joseph, in September 1741, married at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, at Palais, Parish of Saint-Gerard, with dispensation for kinship obtained from the bishop of Vannes, on February 5, 1766, to Rene Trahant, of the village of Calastrenne, Parish of Bangor. Such is the declaration of Marie Rose Rivet, widow of Rene Landry, which was read to her and she declared it true. She declared she could not sign. Done over the signature of the aforesaid witnesses, of M. Le Sergent, rector of Bangor,

of Fr. J.-L. Le Loutre, missionary and ours, clerk appointed for that purpose.

Charles Granger  
Jos.-Simon Granger

Jean Terriot  
Joseph Billerey  
Thibaud, clerk

J.-L. Le Loutre, missionary

P. J. Ph. Le Sergent, rector of Bangor

*Family of Cyprien Duon, of the Village of Calastrenne,  
Parish of Bangor*

On February 22, 1767, appeared Cyprien Duon, Acadian sharecropper of Calastrenne, parish of Bangor, who in the presence of Charles Granger, Joseph Bellerrey, Jean Theriot, and Simon Granger, Acadians living on this island, declared that he was born at Port-Royal on April 1, 1729, to Jean-Baptiste Duon, from Lyon, France, and was married at Port-Royal to Agnes Hebert, daughter of Antoine Hebert and Jeanne Coporon (?). The said Duon died at the said place. From the marriage of Jean-Baptiste Duon and Agnes Hebert were born at Port-Royal:

Jean-Baptiste Duon, in 1715, married to Magdelaine Vincent of Riviere-aux-Canards, Parish of St. Joseph, on January 22, 1736. From that marriage were born Honore Duon, Marie Duon, Marguerite Duon, and Elizabeth Duon.

Honore Duon, born at Port Royal in 1717, married to Anne-Marie Vincent, daughter of Michel Vincent and Marie Douaron. From this marriage were born Joseph (—?) Duon, Jean Duon, Francois Duon, Marie Duon, and Pierre Duon, all remaining at Halifax in Nova Scotia. Jeanne Duon was born at Port Royal in 1719 and married Francois Boutte of Port Royal, sent with their family to Boston.

Pierre Duon, born at Port Royal in 1721, married a first time at Mines, Parish of Saint Charles to Angelique Aucoin, daughter of (Pierre?) Aucoin and Catherine Hebert. Of this marriage were born Marie-Claire Duon and Marguerite Duon. The said Pierre Duon was married a second time in England at Bristol to Marguerite Aucoin, daughter of Joseph Aucoin and Anne Trahant, living in the parish of Plouhar, bishopric of Saint Malo.

Abel Duon, born at Port Royal in 1721, married at Boston, where he was deported, to a daughter of Jacques Tourangeau and Melle. d'Entret [D'Entrement?], presently in Boston with his family.

Bazil Duon, born at Port Royal in 1730, married there to Magdelaine Comeau, daughter of Augustin Comeau and Marie Nantois, deported to New York by the English.

Charles Duon, born at Port Royal in 1733, married at Halifax in Nova Scotia by Fr. Maillard, a priest of the Foreign Missions, to Francoise Prigent [Prejean], daughter of Charles Prigent and Francoise Boudrot.

Euphrosine Duon, born in 1725, married in 1750 to Charles Vincent, son of Michel Vincent and Anne-Marie Douaron. The said Charles Vincent, born at Riviere-aux-Canards, Parish of St. Joseph, in 1727. The said Charles Vincent and his wife died at Plymouth in October 1756. From that marriage were born:

Jean Vincent, who lives with his uncle and godfather, Cyprien Duon at Balastren.

Marie-Elizabeth Vincent who lives with her uncle Honore Duon at [Marthou?].

Rose-Pelagie Vincent and Elizabeth Vincent who live with their uncle and aunt, Pierre Trahant and Magdelaine Vincent, at [Gouebour?], Parish of Bangor.

Claude Duon, born at Port Royal on February 18, 1736, married at Miramichy by Fr. [Mariach?], priest of the Foreign Missions, to Joseph Vincent, daughter of Michel Vincent and Anne-Marie Douaron. They have gone to Martinique with their family.

Rosalie Duon, born at Port Royal, in 1741, deported with Agnes Hebert, her mother, to New York.

The said Cyprien Duon, deponent, married at Liverpool by Father [Walblan?] on January 15, 1756, to Marguerite Landry, daughter of Rene Landry and Marie-Rose Rivet, living at Bordrehouant, Parish of Bangor.

Of this marriage were born:

Jean-Baptiste Duon, at Liverpool, on October 3, 1759.

Anne-Marie Duon, at Morlaix, Parish of St. Matthew, bishopric of Triquier, on August 6, 1764.

Joseph Duon, born at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, at Palais, Parish of St. Gerard, on April 6, 1766.

Such is the declaration of Cyprien Duon, which was read to him, and he declared it true. He declared he could not sign. Done over the following signatures, the said Duon approving. "Josette" was clarified, two words scratched out.

Charles Granger

Joseph Billerey

Jean Terriot

Jos. Simon Granger

Thibaud, clerk

J.-L. Le Loutre, missionary

P. J. Ph. Le Sergent, rector of Bangor

*Family of Alexandre Aucoin, of Calashon,  
Parish of Bangor*

On February 23, 1767, appeared Alexandre Aucoin, of Calastron, Parish of Bangor, who in the presence of Charles Granger, Joseph Billerey, Jean Theriot, and Simon Granger, witnesses, all Acadians living on this island, declared he was born at Cobequid, Parish of Sts. Peter and Paul, on August 10, 1725, son of Alexis Aucoin and Anne-Marie Bourg. Alexis Aucoin died in 1759, son of Martin Aucoin and Marie Gaudet. Martin Aucoin had come from France and died, as did his wife, at Riviere-aux-Canards, Parish of St. Joseph. Anne-Marie Bourg died at Boulogne-en-Mer in 1766, daughter of Martin Bourg and Marie [Porche?], of Port Royal, both of them dying at Cobequid.

From the marriage of Alexis Aucoin and Anne-Marie Bourg were born at Cobequid:

Pierre Aucoin, in 1709, married at Mines, Parish of St. Charles, to Elizabeth Brault, daughter of Antoine Brault and Marie Dugas, who went to Quebec with their family.

Marie Aucoin, in 1713, married at the said place to Cherubin Brault, brought from Isle St.-Jean to Saint Malo, where they both died.

Alexis Aucoin, in 1717, married there to Helene Blanchard, daughter of Pierre Blanchard and Francoise Brault, brought from Isle St.-Jean to Saint Malo, where Alexis Aucoin died.

Jean Aucoin, in 1719, married to Marie Blanchard, daughter of Martin Blanchard and Elizabeth Dupuis, both of them died in Acadia, leaving a daughter about 18 years old who lives with her uncle Francois Aucoin, presently at Isle d'Aix.

Joseph Aucoin, born at Cobequid, in 1721, married a first time to Anne Blanchard, daughter of Pierre Blanchard and Francoise Brault, the said Anne Blanchard having died with her children at Saint Malo.

The said Joseph Aucoin, married a second time to a daughter of Jean Hebert, and Claire Dugast, living at Saint Malo.

Francois Aucoin, in 1725, married a first time at the said place to Elizabeth Blanchard, daughter of Martin Blanchard and Elizabeth Dupuis. The said Elizabeth Blanchard died at Boulogne-en-Mer on May 1, 1761, or 1762. The said Francois Aucoin lives presently at



Isle d'Aix with her family.

Hyacinthe Aucoin, in 1742, married at Calais, where he is living.

Cherubin Aucoin, in 1737, living at Boulogne-en-Mer.

The said Alexandre Aucoin, deponent, married a first time at Mines, Parish of St. Charles, to Marie Trahant, born at Riviere-aux-Canards in 1730, to Pierre Trahant and Jeanne Daigre. Marie Trahant is a sister of Pierre and Rene Trahant of [Balastre?], Parish of Bangor, having the same lineage, died in Virginia on February 27, 1756. Of that marriage was born at Riviere-aux-Canards, Marie Aucoin on June 7, 1754.

The above-mentioned Alexandre Aucoin was married a second time by Fr. Jacques Le Grand at Liverpool on October 22, 1759, to Elizabeth Duon, daughter of the late Jean-Baptiste Duon and Magdelaine Vincent, of [Goudan?], Parish of Bangor.

Of this marriage were born:

Anne Aucoin, at Liverpool, on July 14, 1761.

Genevieve-Nicole Aucoin, on June 17, 1765, Parish of [Ploiseux?], bishopric of Triquier.

Such is the declaration of Alexandre Aucoin, which was read to him, and he declared that it was true and that he could not sign. Done over the signature of the above-mentioned witnesses, the rector of Bangor, Jean-Louis Le Loutre, missionary, and ours, clerk appointed for this purpose. The witnesses are:

Jean Terriot

Charles Granger

Joseph Billerey

Jos. Simon Granger

Thibaud, clerk

P.-J. Ph. Le Sergent, rector of Bangor

J.-L. Le Loutre, missionary

*Family of Rene and Pierre Trahan of Balastien,  
Parish of Bangor*

On February 24, 1767, appeared Rene and Pierre Trahan, brothers, living at Balastien, Parish of Bangor, who in presence of Charles Granger, Joseph Billerey, Jean Theriot, and Simon Granger, witnesses, all Acadians living on this island, declared that he, Rene Trahan, was born at Riviere-aux-Canards, Parish of St. Joseph, in December, 1734, to Pierre Trahant and Jeanne Daigre. Pierre Trahant, son of Jean Trahant and Marie Boudrot of Port Royal; Jean Trahant of was the son of Guillaume Trahant who came from France and married at Port Royal Magdelaine Brun. Both of them died at Port Royal. Jeanne Daigre, was the daughter of Olivier Daigre and Jeanne Blanchard, both of whom died at Port Royal. Olivier Daigre, son of Jean Daigre who came from France and married at Port Royal Marie Godet, both of them dying at the said place.

From the marriage of Pierre Trahant, who died at Liverpool on August 10, 1756, and Jeanne Daigre, who died there in June 1757, were born at Riviere-aux-Canards:

Magdelaine Trahant, on December 23, 1732, married in the said parish in November 1753 to Charles Aucoin, born at the said place to Pierre Aucoin and Catherine Comeau, living in the Parish of St. Julien, bishopric of Saint Malo.

Jean-Baptiste Trahant, on August 9, 1750, living in the Parish of Saint Julien.

Francoise Trahant, born at Riviere-aux-Canards, Parish of St. Joseph, on December 25, 1749. Married at Liverpool on January 7, 1763, to Pierre-Pascal Hebert, son of Jean Hebert and the late Marguerite Trahant. The said Jean Hebert lives at Bordrehouat, Parish of Locmaru. From the marriage of Pierre-Pascal Hebert and Francoise Trahant was born at Morlaix, Parish of Saint Martin, bishopric of St. Pol de Leon, Elizabeth Hebert, on December 29, 1764. The said Elizabeth Hebert died at Cayenne, as did her father, Pierre-Pascal

Hebert. The said Francoise Trahant returned from Cayenne and lives with her brother Pierre Trahant at Calastren, Parish of Bangor. The said Rene Trahant, deponent, married a first time at Liverpool, England, on February 12, 1758, to Anne Le Blanc, daughter of Jean Le Blanc and Francoise Blanchard, living at [Brenanter?], Parish of Sauzon. Of this marriage was born Raphael Trahant, at Liverpool, on December 21, 1761.

The said Rene Trahant, was married a second time, with a dispensation from the Bishop of Vannes, at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, at Palais, Parish of Saint-Gerard, on February 5, 1766, to Magdelaine Landry, daughter of the late Rene Landry and Marie-Rose Rivet, widow of the said Landry, living at Bordrehouan, Parish of Bangor.

The said Pierre Trahant declared he was born at Riviere-aux-Canards, Parish of St. Joseph, in March 1737, of the same father and mother as Rene Trahant, his brother, with the same ancestors. He was married in Liverpool, England, on May 8, 1758, to Marguerite Duon, born on August 15, 1741, in the said Parish of St. Joseph, the daughter of the late Jean-Baptiste Duon and Magdelaine Vincent, living at Gouclan, Parish of Bangor.

From that marriage were born:

Marie-Elizabeth Trahant, at Liverpool, on March 18, 1759.

Genevieve, born at the same place, on December 29, 1762.

Jean-Baptiste Trahant, at Morlaix, Parish of St. Martin, bishopric of St. Pol de Leon, on April 16, 1764.

Elizabeth Appoline Trahant, at Belle-Isle-en-Mer, Parish of Bangor, on January 2, 1767. Such are the declarations of Rene and Pierre Trahan, who declared them true after hearing them read. They declared they could not sign. Done over the signature of the witnesses, of M. Le Sergent, rector of Bangor, J.-L. Le Loutre, missionary, and ours, clerk appointed for that purpose, the said day and year. The word "four" was corrected and approved.

Jean Terriot  
Joseph Billerey

Charles Granger  
Jos. Simon Granger.  
Thibaud, clerk

J.-L. Le Loutre, missionary

P. J. Ph. Le Sergent, rector of Bangor

(To Be Continued)

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### J. TIPPING, SURGEON, FRANKLIN

Has received direct from the Apothecaries' Hall in Liverpool, a quantity of pure, fresh and genuine drugs, consisting of chloroform, Hydrarg., Sub., Mur, Morphine Sulphas, Sulph. Quinine, Blue Mass, Iodine Potam, Sulph. Iron, Citric Acid, Lebedia in seed, in flats, and in tincture, and the usual family medicines kept in a chemist and drug store, too numerous to mention in an advertisement.

J. T. having had many years of practice as a surgeon, under his father, the late Dr. Tipping of Skipton in Craven, England, offers his services in all cases of simple or compound fractured bones, Cuts, Bruises, Scalds, Round Soars [sic], Piles, or any disease incident to the muscles or bones in the human subject.

TEETH EXTRACTED - charge, 50 cents.

I also have for sale a family salve, for round sores on the shin bones, Scald heads, Erysipelas, Piles, Knits in children's heads and vermin. Price 25 cents per box.

CENSUS OF THE WHITE POPULATION OF OPELOUSAS  
T. D. COOK, ENUMERATOR  
JUNE 1, 1880

(Compiled by Margaret Ann Conrad)

Continued from Vol. XVII, No. 3

Householder	Age	Relationship to Householder	Occupation	Person's place of Birth	Father's place of Birth	Mother's place of Birth
Augustine	3	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Cora	5m	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Dominique, Celmis	41		Bread Peddler	France	Italy	France
Alexandrine	42	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Leon A.	20	Son	Clerk	La.	France	La.
Felice	17	Daughter	At Home	La.	France	La.
Charles	12	Son	At School	La.	France	La.
Mary	9	Daughter	At School	La.	France	La.
Blanche F.	8	Daughter	At Home	La.	France	La.
Henry A.	4	Son		La.	France	La.
Longstramm, Amelia ?	55	Mother in law	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Villisier, Maurice ?	36		Retail Grocer	La.	Fl.	La.
Anna	26	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	France	France
Ida	6	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Ducharm, Joseph	23	Employee	Clerk	La.	France	La.
Voorhies, Octave	51		Deputy County Clerk	La.	Ky.	La.
Estelle	46	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Leones	20	Son	Type Setter	La.	La.	La.
Armyde	18	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Estelle	13	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	La.
Corinne	11	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	La.
Fernand	9	Son	At School	La.	La.	La.
Louise	7	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Agelie	77	Mother	At Home	La.	Italy	La.
Fontenot, John B. A.	46		Deputy County Clerk	La.	La.	France
Elizabeth	42	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Mary	18	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
John B.	12	Son	At School	La.	La.	La.
Alfred B.	8	Son	At School	La.	La.	La.
Lilly	5	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Fernand	2	Son		La.	La.	La.
Cecilia E.	48	Sister in law	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Bloch, Solomon	25		Clerk	Alsace	Alsace	Alsace

Housholder	Age	Relationship to Housholder	Occupation	Person's place of Birth	Father's place of Birth	Mother's place of Birth
Bowden, Thomas F.	25		Clerk	La.	Ireland	Ireland
Prevost, Victoire	52		Retail Merchant	France	Italy	France
Felice	31	Daughter	Clerk	La.	France	France
Octavie	24	Daughter	Clerk	La.	France	France
Bordemuller, Rosalie	30	Daughter	At Home	La.	France	France
Octave	7	Grandchild	At School	La.	Baden	France
Dominique, Leon	20	Nephew	Clerk	La.	Baden	La.
Littell, R. H.	56		Physician	La.	N. J.	Isle of Wight
Annette E.	52	Wife	Housekpr.	N. Y.	Ireland	Ireland
Annie	21	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	N. Y.
Kate	17	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	N. Y.
Benjamin	14	Son	At School	La.	La.	N. Y.
May E.	10	Daughter	At School	La.	La.	N. Y.
Theophilus H.	6	Son	At School	La.	La.	N. Y.
Donovan, James A.	28		Road Waggoner	Miss.	Va.	Ala.
Louisa	58	Mother	Housekpr.	Ala.	S. C.	Va.
Lecog, Sarah J.	8	Niece	At School	La.	La.	Miss.
Lowell, Truston	81	Boarder	At Home	Maine	Maine	Maine
Price, Wilson M.	31		Retail Grocer	Miss.	Miss.	Miss.
Baillis, Kenneth	29		Lawyer	La.	La.	La.
Bordemuller, Rudolph	26		Barber	Baden	Baden	Baden
Emma	20	Sister	At Home	La.	Baden	Baden
Louisa	18	Sister	At Home	La.	Baden	Baden
Herman	15	Brother	At School	La.	Baden	Baden
Mock, Babina	56	Aunt	Housekpr.	Baden	Baden	Baden
Catherine	26	Cousin	At Home	La.	Bavaria	Baden
DeJean, Felix	74		Farmer	La.	France	La.
Cora	45	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Fernand	7	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Eva	4	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Leonas	2m	Son	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Bourdin, Victor	57		Carpenter	France	France	France
Appoline	49		Housekpr.	France	France	France

Joubert, Joachim	38		Butcher	La.	La.
Josephine	36	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.
Lucien	17	Son	Farmer	La.	La.
Lucile	14	Daughter	At School	La.	La.
Qaripe	13	Daughter	At School	La.	La.
Virginia	10	Daughter	At School	La.	La.
Josephine	7	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.
Ogdore, John M.	33		Sawyer	La.	La.
Celeste	25	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Ill.
Nuna	7	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.
Mabel	6	Daughter		La.	La.
Carlton	4	Son		La.	La.
Percy	2	Son		La.	La.
Thompson, Jefferson	17	Brother in law	At Home	La.	Ill.
Labiche, Terese	69		Housekpr.	La.	Spain
Matilda	24	Daughter	At Home	La.	France
Alice	19	Grandchild	At Home	La.	La.
Robin, Terese	36	Daughter	At Home	La.	France
Jules	20	Grandchild	Teacher	La.	La.
Aline	18	Grandchild	At Home	La.	La.
Cahannin, Folonise	68		Housekpr.	La.	Germany
Ernestine	34	Daughter	At Home	La.	France
Matilde	24	Daughter	At Home	La.	France
Estorge, Augustine	50	Daughter	At Home	La.	France
Augustine	23	Grandchild	At Home	La.	La.
Gahannin, Joanne	9	Grandchild	At Home	La.	La.
Sandoz, Jacques B.	23		Blacksmith	La.	Switz.
Rosa	27	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Canada
Joseph	2	Son		La.	La.
Sidney	5m	Son		La.	La.
Galbeau, Adrienne	6	Step Daughter		La.	La.
Alixis	22	Brother	Apprentice Blacksmith	La.	Switz.
Jobin, Celeste	56	Mother in law	At Home	La.	France

Householder	Age	Relationship to Householder	Occupation	Person's place of Birth	Father's place of Birth	Mother's place of Birth
Robertson, Wm. H.	42		Sawyer	Conn.	Conn.	Santo Domingo
Mary	37	Wife	Housekpr.	Ga.	Ga.	Ga.
Salliso, Cora	44		Housekpr.	La.	France	La.
Blanche	25	Daughter	At Home	La.	France	La.
Eugene	16	Son	At School	La.	France	La.
Maurice	14	Son	At School	La.	France	La.
Rogers, Benj. R.	73		Clerk in Supreme Court	La.	S. C.	N. C.
Caroline	72	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Va.	N. H.
Garrie	24	Niece	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Celeste P.	12	Niece	At School	La.	La.	La.
Lewis, Wm. C.	41		Collector	La.	La.	La.
Ida	28	Wife	Housekpr.	Miss.	Ga.	Miss.
Cora	4	Daughter		La.	La.	Miss.
Fannie	3	Daughter		La.	La.	Miss.
Morgan	2	son		La.	La.	Miss.
Raymond, Francois	52		Pastor	France	France	France
Eby, Augustine	24	Assistant	Vicar	France	France	France
BlancDuquancy, A.	42		Teacher	France	France	France
Wiloz, John	13	Boarder	At School	La.	Switz.	La.
Thompson, F. H., Jr.	35		Clerk	La.	La.	La.
Julie	27	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
F. Henry, Jr.,	3	Son		La.	La.	La.
Joseph	2m	Son		La.	La.	La.
Mouton, Antoine E.	26	Brother in law		La.	La.	La.
Cora	23	Wife	Carpenter	La.	La.	La.
Gopolin, Pierre	56		At Home	La.	La.	La.
Virginie	46	Wife	Wheelwright	France	France	France
Arthur	9	Son	Housekpr.	La.	France	La.
Louis	7	Son	At School	La.	France	La.
Celeste	24	Daughter in law	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Qara	6	Grandchild		La.	La.	La.
Chashere, Alen B.	38		Retail Merchant	La.	La.	La.
Josephine	36	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Md.	Ky.

Tilghman ?	13	Son	At School	La.	La.
Walter A.	8	Son	At School	La.	La.
Thomas C.	6	Son	At Home	La.	La.
Clarence	4	Son		La.	La.
Julia E.	6m	Daughter		La.	La.
Perry, Alfred	39		Wheelwright	Tenn.	La.
Philomen	29	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Canada
Lafond, Adrienne	3	Niece		La.	France
Mayo, Claudus	44		Druggist	Conn.	La.
Rogers, Harrison	62		Printer	Miss.	England
Eniline	45	Daughter	Housekpr.	La.	Ill.
Henrietta	43	Daughter	At Home	La.	Ill.
Holmer ?, Charles	14	Grandchild	At School	Mo.	Mo.
Academy of the Immaculate Conception					
St. Sebastien, Mary Sister	43		Principal of School	France	France
St. Albins, Sister Marg.	31		Assistant Teacher	Martinique	Martinique
St. Lydia, Sister Mary	25		Assistant Teacher	La.	La.
St. Albert, Sister Mary	40		Assistant Teacher	N.Y.	N.Y.
At. Ambrose, Sister Mary	45		Housekpr.	Ireland	Ireland
Haylen, Gertrude	17	Boarder	At School	La.	Miss.
Comeau, Ophelia	16	Boarder	At School	La.	La.
Pitre, Martha	15	Boarder	At School	La.	La.
Pitre, Edmonia	15	Boarder	At School	La.	La.
Hardy, Eleonore	15	Boarder	At School	La.	La.
Lofond, Alice	12	Boarder	At School	La.	La.
Dupree, Marie L.	12	Boarder	At School	La.	France
Perrodin, Rose	13	Boarder	At School	La.	La.
Milloz, Leontine	11	Boarder	At School	La.	France
Deibes, Corinne	10	Boarder	At School	La.	Switz.
				La.	La.
Sandoz, Louis B.	30		Retail Grocer	La.	Switz.
Alice	30	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	France

Householder	Age	Relationship to Householder	Occupation	Person's place of Birth	Father's place of Birth	Mother's place of Birth
Hollier, Theophile	30		Clerk	La.	La.	La.
Victoire	25	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	La.	La.
Anna	1	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Gonor, Calvin	14	Nephew	At School	La.	La.	La.
Cahamin, Emules	42		Housekpr.	La.	France	La.
Gustave	16	Son		La.	La.	La.
Paul	15	Son		La.	La.	La.
Parker, Peteo J.	34		Physician	Ala.	Ga.	Ga.
Mattee B.	24	Wife	Housekpr.	Ala.	Ala.	Ala.
Ashley	9	Son	At School	Tenn.	Ala.	Ala.
Lena M.	3	Daughter	At Home	Ala.	Ala.	Ala.
Cora	1	Daughter		La.	Ala.	Ala.
Walters, Lula	13	Niece	At School	Miss.	Ala.	Ala.
Morret, P. R.	47		Indegent	France	France	France
Thompson, Wm. M.	30		Physician	La.	Ohio	La.
Catherine	29	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	Ireland	La.
Fannie	3	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Ryan	2	Son		La.	La.	La.
Wm. M.	2m	Son		La.	La.	La.
Estorge, Edward	12		At School	La.	La.	La.
Marceline	11	Sister	At School	La.	La.	La.
Luci	10	Sister	At School	La.	La.	La.
Stella	8	Sister	At School	La.	La.	La.
Bordemuller, Emile	24		Barber	La.	-	-
Louisa A.	29	Wife	Housekpr.	La.	France	La.
Verrrell, Henry	10	Son	At School	La.	La.	La.
Lena	3	Daughter	At Home	La.	La.	La.
Nettie	8m	Daughter		La.	La.	La.
Toledano, Ben.	21		Cattle Speculator	La.	La.	La.



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